

# Arlington County 2015 Annual Report

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER



DECEMBER 2015



ARLINGTON  
VIRGINIA

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## ***Arlington County Vision***

*“Arlington will be a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive residential and commercial neighborhoods where people unite to form a caring, learning, participating, sustainable community in which each person is important.”*

*Adopted by the Arlington County Board January 26, 2002*

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## THE 2015 ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD

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***(L to R) Board Member Jay Fisette, Board Member Libby Garvey, Chair Mary Hughes Hynes, Vice Chairman J. Walter Tejada, Board Member John Vihstadt***



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## *ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP*

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**MARK SCHWARTZ**  
ACTING COUNTY MANAGER

### *OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER*

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**MICHELLE COWAN, ACTING**  
**CAROL MITTEN**  
**JAMES SCHWARTZ**  
DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGERS

**LYNNE PORFIRI, ACTING**  
**DIANA SUN**  
**RAUL TORRES**  
**SHANNON FLANAGAN-WATSON**  
ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGERS

### DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

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TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

**JOHN J. BROWN JR.**  
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**MARY BETH CHAMBERS, ACTING**  
MANAGEMENT & FINANCE

**STEVE COVER**  
COMMUNITY PLANNING  
HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

**GREG EMANUEL**  
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**MARCY FOSTER**  
HUMAN RESOURCES

**MURRAY J. FARR**  
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**JANE RUDOLPH**  
PARKS & RECREATION



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*ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT*  
*2015 ANNUAL REPORT*

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# ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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**Mark Schwartz,**  
**Acting County Manager**

### MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

For Arlington County Government, 2015 was a year of endings and beginnings. My predecessor Barbara Donnellan retired and the County Board appointed me as Acting County Manager. While my title changed, my commitment to maintaining Arlington as a thriving, vibrant community did not.

It also was a year of challenges such as the economic pressures resulting from a historically high office vacancy rate and the need to deal with the growing stressors affecting Arlington Public Schools including increasing enrollment and a strained infrastructure of aging or outdated facilities. To mitigate these pressures, I identified three priority areas for concentration: *Economic Development, Service Delivery/Open Data and Strategic Planning.*

Throughout the year, County staff and our partners initiated programs and activities to address each area. For instance, the County Board invested additional funds and resources for economic development and aggressively marketing Arlington as a competitive and sustainable community. We took steps through the “One-Stop Arlington” initiative to increase government transparency and make it easier to do business with the County. This included improvements to the Site Plan Review and permitting processes and electronic plan filing coming early next year.

As part of the strategic planning effort, we held a series of long-term budget planning sessions looking at future service delivery and staffing to ensure we continue to function as an innovative and responsive organization. Additionally, reflecting our commitment to Arlington students, the County Board approved increased funding for the school system as part of its adoption of the Fiscal Year 2016 budget, and collaborated with the School Board to launch the Community Facilities Study to explore a new process for siting major County and Schools capital projects.

We joined with other Northern Virginia jurisdictions in endorsing, in concept, the Virginia Department of Transportation’s I-66 Multimodal Improvement Project: Inside the Beltway. The project offers the potential to reduce congestion and enhance transportation options along the interstate. By adding our support, we guaranteed having a say in how the project affects Arlington residents.

Against the backdrop of these initiatives, we celebrated the opening of the new Comprehensive Homeless Services Center and adopted the County’s first Affordable Housing Master Plan and Implementation Framework. In addition, we completed a number of long-term planning efforts that will guide the future transformation of the Rosslyn and Courthouse areas; and for the 15th consecutive year, we maintained our triple-triple-A bond rating, which allows the County to borrow or finance major projects at the lowest possible rates. This in turn provides greater resources for other critical services.

The attached report highlights some of our most notable achievements during the year, all accomplished by a cadre of dedicated public servants committed to serving the Arlington community and all who work, visit or play here.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Schwartz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Schwartz  
Acting County Manager

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### SOCIAL SAFETY NET

*Achieving Arlington’s vision of “being a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community” is a central tenet of the County’s social safety net programs. To this end, in 2015, the County took major steps to ensure housing is affordable to all incomes and people at all stages of their lives, providing comprehensive services for the homeless, and addressing the needs of at-risk youth. The year saw the adoption of the County’s first Affordable Housing Master Plan, gains in the affordable housing supply, and a number of successes in the effort to promote residents’ social well-being.*

#### Affordable Housing

##### Arlington Adopts New Affordable Housing Master Plan

With the adoption of the County’s first Affordable Housing Master Plan (AHMP), and its companion Implementation Framework, in September, Arlington took a major step in ensuring its housing stock remains affordable for all income levels as the two documents offer County officials a strategic approach to respond to the community’s housing needs. Specifically, the Plan’s principles, goals, objectives and strategies now define the County’s affordable housing policy and addresses the three major challenges to affordability—supply, access, and sustainability.

Retaining a sufficient supply of housing affordable for low and moderate-income households has become an increasing challenge for the County, even though it has created more committed affordable units than most surrounding jurisdictions. In response, the Plan sets an objective of achieving 22,800 affordable rental units by 2040 – a return to the number of below market rate units that were available in Arlington in 2000 –and supplying 2,700 low-cost ownership units by 2040.

To create and enable access to both market rate and affordable housing for those most in need, the Plan calls for continuing educational efforts about and enforcement of, fair housing laws to eliminate housing discrimination; providing direct rental assistance; sustaining efforts to prevent and end

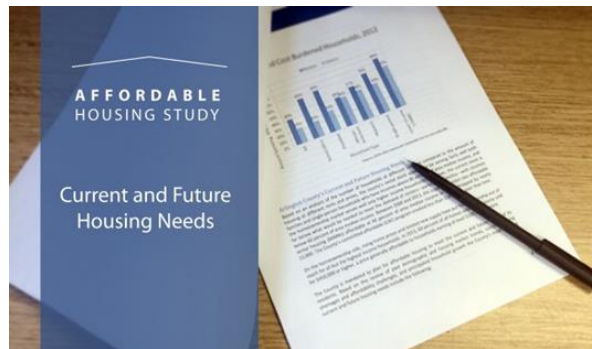
homelessness; and supporting residents aging in the community and independent living for persons with disabilities.

To ensure sustainability, the Plan’s policies advocates maintaining the physical quality of the County’s housing supply; locating affordable housing in proximity to transit; encouraging energy efficiency and water conservation and investing for the long-term, whether with preserving or building new homes.

A major discussion during the Plan’s development was the geographic distribution of affordable housing. This led to recommendations for preserving affordable units where they currently exist; locating affordable

housing close to transit corridors, including bus routes; and additional review of land use and zoning policies to allow a variety of housing types beyond urban corridors.

In adopting the Implementation Framework, the Board directed the County Manager to focus on five areas over the next two years to advance the AHMP goals: (1) developing indicators and evaluation tools for annual monitoring of the Plan; (2) recommending revisions to the Affordable Housing Investment Fund guidelines and associated procedures; (3) developing zoning ordinance proposals addressing a number of areas such as accessory dwellings; (4) creating tools that support the preservation of existing affordable condominiums and (5) conducting a review of the Real Estate Tax Relief Program.



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### Gains in New Affordable Housing Supply

The County employs a number of strategies to increase the availability of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents, including land use and zoning tools that incentivize developers to offer housing in exchange for greater flexibility in building projects. In 2015, the County added 486 Committed Affordable Housing Units (CAFs) using these tools.

In January, with the approval of the redevelopment of the “Paper Clip” building at 400 Army Navy Drive, the developer agreed to provide 15 on-site committed affordable housing units, while the redevelopment of 1307 N. Rolfe St., approved in February, netted 39 on-site CAFs.

Two Columbia Pike projects passed by the Board in February, secured an additional 235 affordable housing, in line with the goal of preserving the current level of below market rate units along the Pike. Carver Homes, at 1300 S. Rolfe St. provided six units, while Columbia Hills delivered 229 new homes.

In September, the Board authorized changes to the Pentagon Centre Site Plan that added 11 on-site affordable units to the property, and in the following month, the 672 Flats project won permission to commence, which added another seven CAFs. The approved redevelopment of the former Red Top Cab site in Clarendon added another six units. Additionally, the redevelopment of the Arlington Presbyterian Church approved in December provided 173 committed affordable apartments.

Arlington also received nearly \$6.7 million in Affordable Housing Investment Fund (AHIF) contributions with a \$2.2 million payment for the 400 Army Navy Drive project, \$850,694 for the project at 2025 Clarendon Blvd., and \$1.7 million from the Pentagon Center Project. The Red Top developers pledged to comply with the Zoning Ordinance requirement for affordable housing either with an AHIF contribution or by providing on-site units. Finally, in December, the approved Carpool project at 4000 and 4040 Fairfax Drive netted a nearly \$2.2 million AHIF contribution.

### Preserving Existing Affordable Units

One of the County’s Affordable Housing Goals is to “make every reasonable effort to maintain the supply of affordable market rate housing.” In 2015, two significant development projects won County Board approval that preserved nearly 200 affordable units for years to come.



*Courthouse Manor Apartments*

In March, in approving the use of Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) for the redevelopment of 2025 Clarendon Blvd. the Board made way for the preservation of 85 units at Wakefield Manor and Courthouse Manor apartments at their affordable market rate. By taking advantage of the TDR inducement, the developer moved density from the Fort Myer Heights North neighborhood further from Metro, where County plans call for historic preservation and lower-density development, to a location closer to Metro in an area targeted for higher-density redevelopment and surrounded by development of a similar character.

In April, Board members approved a \$5.792 million Affordable Housing Investment Fund loan to developer McCormack Baron Salazar (MBS) to assist with the purchase and renovation of Clarendon Court Apartments in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor. The action preserved 103 affordable units for 60 years, and allows the developer to offer other units at lower rents longer than calendar year 2018 when the current agreements expire. The renovation also will create up to 10 new permanent supportive housing units and 6 accessible units.

# ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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### Promoting Social Well-Being

#### Realizing a Dream-Homeless Services Center Opens

When the new Arlington Homeless Services Center, at 2020-A 14th St. N., opened in October, it represented completion of a key component of the County's commitment to end homelessness. It also paved the way for closing the County's outdated Emergency Winter Shelter.

The center serves as a bridge from homelessness to a home for its clients offering a range of services. Clients can take advantage of housing-focused case management, employment and life skills training, benefit enrollment and mental health and substance abuse counseling and treatment.

There also is a day program and medical respite care for clients requiring short-term bed rest due to illness, injury or after a medical procedure.

The center occupies the second and third floors of the building and includes office space for A-SPAN, the Arlington non-profit that operates the shelter. It offers 50 year-round shelter beds, 25 winter hypothermia prevention beds and 5 medical respite beds.

The County purchased the seven-story building in 2012 for \$27 million and set a \$9.679 million construction budget.



#### Human Services Consolidation Enhancing Service Integration

The County has offered an integrated social services program since 1968; however, it was not until 2015 that all of the key service components were located "under one roof." The Department achieved the milestone in October when it completed the consolidation of all of its programs and administrative functions at Sequoia Plaza at 2100 Washington Blvd.

The consolidation began in 2010 when nearly 60

percent of the department moved to

Sequoia Plaza I from Clarendon. The 2015 move placed DHS offices in the Sequoia Plaza II and III buildings and enhanced service integration across the department. It created purpose-built spaces for programs and co-location of administrative services and client programs, and improved accessibility for the department's clients as 45 percent of them live in Sequoia's 22204 zip code area.

The programs and functions that relocated include the Public Health administrative offices, the Community Health Protection Bureau and laboratory from the Fenwick Center at 800 S. Walter Reed Drive, and Clarendon House, a day program for individuals with serious mental illnesses, from 3141 10th St. N. The Behavioral Healthcare offices also moved from three buildings along North George Mason Drive and North Edison Street, including the Drewry Center at the Edison complex next to Virginia Hospital Center.



*Arlington's Homeless Services Center opened in October*



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#### New Group Houses Allow Residents to Return Home

In 2015, the County completed a Request for Proposals that resulted in contracts with Community Residences, Inc. and Good Neighbor Homes, Inc. to develop and open two new five-bed group homes for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The homes enabled the return of 10 County residents who before this year lived in facilities outside the County, including one who lived in a Lynchburg institution. All are now closer to their families and friends, and Arlington's developmental disability services system now has two additional homes accessible to wheelchair-users and others with physical challenges.

Arlington received \$1,589,500 in state funding for the homes from a 2012 Virginia state settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice. Under that agreement, Virginia made a commitment to expand community capacity to serve individuals who have an intellectual disability.

#### Breaking Down Barriers through Recreation

During the year, the County continued to break down barriers through innovative recreation and leisure programs. For instance, the number of people with disabilities included in the County's general recreation programs grew by more than 35 percent as there were 300 unique individuals served in Fiscal Year 2015 versus 222 the previous year. This was partly due to a National Inclusion Project grant that the County received in Fiscal Year 2014, which covered the costs for staff training to ensure that people with disabilities enjoy positive experiences in general recreation programs.

Long Branch Nature Center tailored its activities for recent immigrants and families with limited English proficiency through programs such as "Bilingual Walks in the Park," "Arlington Wildlife for the Family Literacy Programs" and bilingual campfires.

The County's recreation classes and summer camps are very popular with participants of all ages and abilities. For summer camps alone in 2015, the County offered residents 479 options (up from 455 in 2014), and recreation classes attracted approximately 11,000 participants (representing more than 28,000 registrations), continuing the trend of increased participation since Fiscal Year 2010. The largest enrollment growth was in participants ages 5-9.

Recognizing the attractiveness of these programs, the County makes every effort to ensure that they are affordable to residents of all income levels. The number of individuals taking advantage of the County's Fee Reduction Program in 2015 increased by nearly 16 percent with 2,217 unique members during the year up from 1,914 in 2014.

Patrons of the *Enjoy Arlington* classes accounted for the largest number of individuals served through income-based fee reductions, while participants in the County's afterschool program represent the largest percentage of users within a program.

Further, in June, the County Board authorized entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Greenbrier Learning Center for their short-term use of the Arlington Mill Community Center for elementary afterschool program activities. Now 45 elementary-aged students, an age group not served by the center since it reopened in 2013, are spending their free time at the center.



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#### Milestone Reached in Crisis Intervention Services

Arlington reached a milestone in its Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) program that equips law enforcement officers and others with skills to respond to and communicate more effectively with people experiencing a mental health crisis.



In 2015, more than 50 percent of all Arlington Police officers on patrol were CIT trained and certified. CIT-trained officers are available to respond around the clock and wear a special pin on

their uniforms. The goal of the program is to divert individuals from arrest to the help they need, which for most is transport to the County's Crisis Intervention Center.

The weeklong training, introduced in Arlington in 2008 and funded by the state, is one of 33 such programs in Virginia. Other local agencies trained by the County program include the Sheriff's Office, CIA security, area airports, Pentagon police and County magistrates.

The program's success allowed the County to extend it to legal professionals, court personnel, probation counselors and officers and 911-dispatchers. With 95 percent of County dispatchers CIT-trained, they now have the knowledge needed to determine the need for a CIT-trained patrol officer to respond to a scene.

#### Collaboration Serving Arlington's At-Risk Youth

The Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform in March awarded Arlington a competitive six-month technical assistance grant to strengthen collaboration among County agencies that serve at-risk youth and families. The work focused on young people involved with multiple systems – child welfare, education, law enforcement, juvenile justice and behavioral health. Known as "cross-over youth," these young

people represent a high-need population requiring systems and organizations to work together in a collaborative manner to better serve them and improve their outcomes.

The team's work emphasized identifying barriers that prevented partnership development and information sharing, understanding how youth are served in various contexts, acknowledging how agency culture impacts change, challenging the role of leadership and empowering others in the change process, and identifying ways to partner with and empower youth and families.

The McCourt School of Public Policy provided technical assistance for the program, and guided the County through the system review process and helped to develop and implement policies and system improvements. At the conclusion of the program in October, the team had put in place a clear and concise action plan to improve policies and practices related to multisystem, or "cross-over" youth.



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### ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

*Arlington's efforts to achieve long-term economic sustainability involve programs that intersect and support economic development, planning and development and transportation. This network of activities fuels the County's growth, enhances its attractiveness and strengthens its quality of life. It also enables the County to attract and retain businesses, lead the state in tourism, entice developers to build or redevelop attractive properties and to gain community buy-in and participation in developing long-range plans for the future. It also allows the County to provide a number of transit options from carsharing to dedicated transit ways for premium surface transit.*

#### Economic Development

##### Business Recruitment & Retention-- Profiles of Success

Arlington's Business Investment Group (BIG) is the County's principal agency for generating leads and identifying new business recruitment and retention prospects for the county. In 2015, BIG added 47 new business prospects to the county's business retention/recruitment pipeline and provided each site selection services to attract them to Arlington.

This accounts for an associated 19,000 new or retained jobs and 3.9 million square feet of leased office space.

BIG also closed a number of important attraction, retention and expansion deals in 2015 and by the end of October, 32 business prospects had chosen Arlington. As a group, they account for approximately 3,600 new or retained jobs and 935,000 square feet of filled office space. Among the more notable successes were Lidl, 1776, Tetra Tech AMT, the American Diabetes Association and the George Washington Medical Faculty Associates.

Lidl, the German supermarket chain, chose Arlington as its North American corporate headquarters. The company will locate to 3500 S. Clark St., filling 217,000 square feet and bringing about 800 new jobs to Arlington.

Successfully recruiting 1776, the global incubator and seed fund, to open an office in Arlington was a notable achievement. With the move into space at 2231 Crystal Drive, 1776 created 150 new jobs and filled 20,000 square feet of office space. As a tech

catalyst for startups, 1776 supports the County's goal of transforming Crystal City into "Cyber City."

Tetra Tech, a leading provider of consulting, engineering, program management, construction management and technical services has maintained an office in Arlington for 18 years. Their retention at 1515 Wilson Blvd. keeps

150 jobs in Arlington and 53,000 square feet of leased office space.

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) decided to move its national headquarters to Arlington from Alexandria, and signed a 15-year lease for 78,000 square feet with Vornado Realty Trust at 2451 Crystal Drive. It plans to have 300 employees work at the new location.

Finally, in November, the County announced that the George Washington Medical Faculty Associates chose Arlington's 3811 North Fairfax Drive as its new location. The company will occupy 50,000 square feet of office space and create more than 200 new jobs in its first year in Arlington.



*Officials welcome 1776 to Arlington*



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#### Arlington Adopts “The Way Forward”-A New Business Marketing Strategy

Arlington’s Business Investment Group (BIG) in 2015 made progress executing the County’s new “The Way Forward” strategy of marketing Arlington as the ideal business location for fast growing international companies; cybersecurity; education, medical and clean tech and big data firms. Staff attended numerous events and created programs focused on these targeted industries to generate new business leads and increase awareness of Arlington’s brand. As of October, BIG staff had generated over 1,200 new leads for prospects to locate in Arlington. Highlighted BIG events and programs include:

**South by Southwest (SXSW):** BIG attended SXSW, the annual convergence of technology, music and film in Austin, Texas. In conjunction with the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership and Tech.Co, Arlington hosted “Tap into Government: The Sweet and Spicy Side of Startups” a luncheon focused on opportunities for technology companies. The event highlighted TandemNSI – the County’s public private partnership that fosters opportunities and relationships between the National Capital region’s cybersecurity and defense research agencies and high-tech entrepreneurs.

**2015 SelectUSA Investment Summit:** In March, County staff attended the SelectUSA Investment Summit, which brought together economic development organizations, investors and businesses from 70 international markets. Arlington, in partnership with Washington, D.C., hosted a dinner cruise for a delegation of Chinese business leaders to highlight the Capital Region as the ideal location for international investment.

**Modev MVP Conference:** Modev, one of the largest mobile focused communities in the world, has over 10,000 members. The Modev 2015 MVP event took place in Arlington and attracted technology companies and entrepreneurs including Google, Apple, Facebook, Nike, Adidas, Zappos and eBay. BIG sponsored and exhibited at

the event to promote Arlington as the place for high-tech and cybersecurity companies.

**ICSC’s RECon Convention:** The International Council of Shopping Centers “RECon” convention attracts over 32,000 attendees from the shopping center and retail real estate industry to Las Vegas each year. The County along with Arlington’s Business Improvement Districts attended RECon with the goal of attracting new unique grocers, fashion retailers and entertainment/lifestyle options to Arlington. For the event, the County launched a new marketing campaign “Young. Hip. Hungry.” to highlight Arlington’s demographics and the fast growing millennial population. Augmenting this message was the creation of the “Young. Hip. Hungry” website.



The site ([www.younghiphungry.com](http://www.younghiphungry.com)) provides in-depth demographic information about Arlington and detailed descriptions of its nine urban villages.

**Startup Arlington:** In September, BIG introduced a marketing promotion, Startup Arlington, which offered one technology startup company the opportunity to win three months of free office, living space and business support services. The goal was to generate leads and spread the message that Arlington is the ideal place to scale a tech company. The County received over 60 applications, from 13 different states and representing 13 different industries, including cybersecurity and drone technologies. Montana-based Oppleo Security, which operates the software Sikernes, won the competition.

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### New Retail Plan Enhances Arlington's Attractiveness to Tenants

In July, the County Board adopted a new Retail Plan that signaled a shift away from the County's old policy of "retail everywhere" to a more flexible approach, based on an expanded definition of retail that allows for "retail equivalents" in defined locations.

It also establishes a common vocabulary for ground floor uses and strengthens Arlington's primary retail nodes; allows long-and short-term market shifts in retail and ground floor use to occur within the policy framework; accommodates innovative uses on the ground floor; and Increases Arlington's overall level of economic competitiveness.

The plan includes both a vision and three implementation elements: retail maps, design guidelines and an action plan. Collectively, they provide guidance to developers, property owners, business owners, County staff; the community, commissions and the County Board when considering ground floor uses in both new development plans and proposed amendments to existing site plans.

The plan replaces the 2001 Retail Action Plan and expands the definition of retail in Arlington to include shopping, dining, entertainment, services and repair. It also incorporates a new term, "retail equivalents," that, while not traditional retail uses, provide similar visual interest and active street life within a storefront.

Some such uses include childcare centers, schools and other educational facilities, medical uses, civic and government uses and in some instances, residential amenities.



*Arlington's new Retail Plan expands the definition of retail*

### ConnectArlington Now an Economic Development Tool

Connect Arlington originally was built to connect County facilities and Arlington Public Schools. In February, the County Board moved it closer to serving as an economic development tool with the approval of the initiative's policy statement, license agreement and rate structure.

The move advances the efforts to establish Arlington as the region's technology hub. The County owns and maintains the 10 miles of dark fiber that makes up

ConnectArlington and licenses its use to others who are responsible for connecting the fiber to offices, businesses and apartments along the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor, Glebe Road, Columbia Pike and in Crystal City.

ConnectArlington now has a direct connection with Virginia Tech allowing the County a link to access Internet 2 and Amazon Web Services located at the Equinox Data Center in Ashburn, Va. This will allow County schools and libraries to gain access to U.S. and international research leaders, educational institutions and government, and promote increased collaboration and innovation. Direct access to Amazon Web Services may serve as an additional benefit to businesses located within the County.

Also, in November, the County entered an agreement with Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall that inter-connected Arlington's emergency dispatch system with the base to increase emergency response, to support mutual aid requests, and create an alternative redundant path for ConnectArlington to ensure resiliency and continuity of operations.

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#### One-Stop Arlington Offering a Better Way to Do Business



In 2015, the County introduced the *One-Stop Arlington* initiative to transform the

way it serves business and the overall community.

The program has three primary goals: streamline business processes; empower and hold staff accountable; and provide a superior customer experience. At its core, the goal is to make it easier for customers to do business with the County without needing to understand the County's organizational structure. The project will lead to improvements intended to allow businesses and others to receive predictable, consistent information about processes and procedures. Here is a sample of the work in progress:

**Electronic Plan (ePlan) Review:** Work is currently underway for the introduction of Electronic Plan (ePlan) Review in early 2016 to allow customers to submit plans and construction documents for



building permits electronically. It will streamline document submission, plan review, examination and comment/response exchanges for both customers and staff. It also will reduce the overall permitting review cycle and

promote transparency in the process. In preparation for the rollout, the County made significant progress with beta testers to ensure smooth transition from a paper-based process to electronic submission and review of building permits.

**Site Plan Review Process:** Improvements to the Site Plan Review Process are taking place. The focus of the effort is to make the procedure less costly for applicants, increase consistency and clarity, and create a more coordinated and simplified review process.



*Customers at the Permit Counter at Courthouse Plaza*

**Permitting Processes:** Steps to create an easier permitting process are underway and feature re-engineering several County business procedures to restructure building and land management permits, and implementing an online permitting system in 2017, which reflects public feedback on improving the County's permitting process.

**Mobile Workforce:** A team is investigating how to better support the County's increasingly mobile workforce, equipping employees to be more helpful to customers, with more flexible business hours.

One-Stop Arlington has already achieved a number of other successes. For example, the "Report a Problem" website and mobile app have made it easier to report problems on a variety of County services. The Digital Resource Library at Courthouse Plaza allows customers to view and download current and past permits, site plans and a host of other documents. They can also pay for building permit fees with a credit or debit card at the point of service rather than traveling to another floor in the building. Additionally, the County introduced a new communications tool this year to better manage e-mail marketing and outreach to constituents.

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#### Arlington Named First in the State for Tourism

For years, Arlington has led the region in attracting tourists, and 2014 data from the U.S. Travel Association shows that, for the sixth consecutive year, Arlington was the most popular county in the Commonwealth of Virginia for tourists and enjoyed the highest tourism economic impact. Tourism in Arlington generated \$2.97 billion in expenditures, up 4.9 percent over 2013, and \$80.7 million in local tax receipts, up 3 percent over 2013, supporting nearly 25,000 local jobs. Hotel occupancy was 75.9 percent, up 4.7 percent over 2013.



*Arlington's new Mobile Visitors Center*

This success is due to marketing approaches and collaborative efforts that have helped increase guest spending at Arlington businesses by more than \$485 million or 19 percent from 2010 through 2014. These approaches include a new Mobile Visitors Center that operates at five Arlington Metrorail stations, and affiliation with Brand USA, America's official destination marketing organization, to produce three Arlington tourism videos for international markets. The videos, hosted by native speakers in Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese and UK English, are featured on Brand USA's Discover America website, the StayArlington and Capital Region USA websites, and in marketing tied to international trade events such as World Travel Market 2015 and IPW 2016.

Arlington joined its Northern Virginia Visitors Consortium (NVVC) partners in a tourism media/sales mission to Toronto and Montreal, a

three-year campaign to promote Northern Virginia to leisure travelers in Ontario and Quebec and met with more than 30 members of the media and 40 Canadian tour operators and travel agents, resulting in significant media coverage for Arlington and NVVC.

Additionally, in August, Cvent, a leading cloud-based enterprise event management platform, named Arlington as one of the top 50 cities in the country for meetings and events, based on meeting and event booking activity in the Cvent Supplier Network. Arlington was the only Virginia locality to make the list.

#### Rosslyn Pilot Food Truck Zone Established

In August, the County initiated a Food Truck Zone pilot program in Rosslyn. The project created four zones where vendors could offer curbside lunch service without having to compete for parking space with other vehicles.

The initiative — designed to create pedestrian-friendly food truck access for area workers and residents — resulted from discussions among food truck owners, local restaurateurs and County staff. Participation was voluntary, meaning food trucks can park in other areas of Rosslyn and the County, provided owners observe the parking rules for those streets. The arrangement maximized public spaces, parking and infrastructure allowing easy access to all businesses and retail establishments in the area. Brick and mortar store/restaurant owners have lodge complaints in the past that the trucks discourage customers from visiting their stores/food places.



*Food truck in Rosslyn*



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### Arlington's Business Brain Trust Adopts Strategies to Foster Business in Arlington

Arlington's Business Brain Trust, an ad-hoc committee of local business and community leaders, in November released a business-focused vision – *Arlington: Where Business Succeeds so the Community Prospers*. The group also issued five outcomes, or strategies, for collaborative implementation to support and grow Arlington's business community, as well as reposition the County competitively to retain and attract businesses. The strategies are:

***Facilitating Business Development:*** Providing quick, convenient access to information businesses need when considering Arlington as a location through an online "Business Development Toolkit."

***Streamlining County Processes:*** Collaborating with the Arlington Chamber of Commerce and local businesses in the development of the "One-Stop Arlington" initiative, to streamline permitting and other processes to make it easier to do business with Arlington County Government.

***Promoting Engagement and Inclusion:*** Through the development of an online portal, the County will work with the Economic Development Commission to facilitate increased business community participation in decisions affecting Arlington's future.

***Differentiating our Workforce:*** Supporting Arlington's 24/7 workforce through a partnership between Arlington Economic Development and the Alexandria/Arlington Regional Workforce Council.

***Fostering Communications:*** A commitment between the County, the Economic Development Commission, Arlington Business Improvement Districts and partnerships to create an awareness campaign to keep the business community informed and engaged to advance the business-focused vision.

The group's plans are in line with the County's overall economic development policies and activities.



*A meeting of Arlington's Business Brain Trust*

## Planning & Development

### Long Range Plans Approved

#### **New Sector Plan Sets Transformative Vision for Rosslyn**

The County Board's adoption of the Rosslyn Sector Plan in July established a 25-year blueprint for transforming the district into a walkable, dynamic, vibrant mixed-use urban center that is easily accessible with great housing, workplaces, stores and public spaces.

The sector plan presents a strategy for completing Rosslyn's makeover from a 1960s auto-oriented office district into a gateway to Arlington with attractive public spaces, more housing, diversified workplaces, expanded retail offerings and other amenities. It was the first review of the area since 1992.

It will guide future growth and development in the Rosslyn Coordinated Redevelopment District and focuses on four key topics central to Rosslyn's future success—parks and open space, transportation, building height and form, and urban design.

The Plan's recommendations propose converting North Fort Myer Drive, North Lynn Street and North Kent Street from one-way to two-way streets, removing the North Fort Myer Drive tunnel beneath Wilson Boulevard, and establishing a new building heights policy for creating a dynamic skyline while protecting priority views and allowing ample light and air between buildings.

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### Western Rosslyn Area Plan Offers a Blueprint for Success

The Western Rosslyn Area Plan, adopted in July, offers the County and its partners (Arlington Public Schools and private developers) a guide for the successful redevelopment of a central area of Rosslyn with a new fire station, new school, parkland, mixed-use development and up to 250 units of affordable housing. It serves as a blueprint for transforming an area that has remained largely unchanged since the 1980s.

The Western Rosslyn Area Plan documents a vision for the area generally bordered by 18th Street North to the north, Wilson Boulevard to the south, North Quinn Street to the west and the eastern property line of the 1555 Wilson Boulevard office-building site to the east.

The Plan's development resulted from a successful collaboration of the County Board-appointed Working Group of Arlington residents, business leaders Arlington Public Schools (APS) and property owners Penzance Companies and the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing.

The County will receive a new fire station built by Penzance in return for making a portion of its land available for private redevelopment through a land lease. The new station will replace the existing Fire Station #10. Penzance will cover the costs of other site amenities as well. APS expects to open the new 775-seat secondary school in 2019.

The Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing property, where there are now 39 affordable units, offers the potential for redevelopment into a complex offering about 250 units, in line with the goals of the new Affordable Housing Master Plan that calls for adding affordable units to transit-accessible corridors whenever possible.

### Visionary Courthouse Sector Plan Addendum Adopted

In September, the County Board adopted the Courthouse Sector Plan Addendum that provides a long-range guide for reengineering the Courthouse area over the next several decades. It also offers guidance for transforming Courthouse into "Courthouse Square," a place for visitors to gather for conversation, recreation, relaxation and to celebrate important events.

The plan has 10 top priorities or "big ideas," including a 21st century civic square, central metro access, shared streets, a Courthouse Square promenade, symbolic civic building, redevelopment of the Verizon Plaza, a new County administration building, enhanced pedestrian connection at North Veitch Street and 14th Street North, cultural and civic facilities, and sustainability.

The proposed square will welcome residents and visitors to a new, transparent County administration building, preserve key historic facades and provide for exploration of additional cultural amenities. Parking would be underground to create vibrant open space, improving transit connectivity by adding a new Metro entrance on the square, and improving sustainability through district energy and stormwater management.

The plan also reflects the new Affordable Housing Master Plan and underscores the County's commitment to affordable housing in this "mixed-use, mixed income, premier location in a way that

contributes to the vitality and vibrancy of the neighborhood."

The Plan's implementation matrix identifies potential funding sources and mechanisms to fund the redevelopment of the area, including public improvements.



*The current Fire Station 10*

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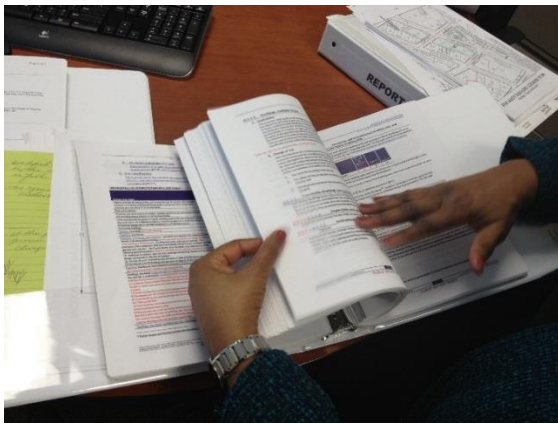
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#### **Other Accomplishments of Note**

##### **Zoning Ordinance Update Now Complete**

In April, the County began using the updated Zoning Ordinance. This followed the County Board's approval of the last set of amendments to the ordinance in February and April, which concluded the four-year effort to improve customer service and to make the ordinance easier to understand and administer.



*The Zoning Ordinance's new format makes it easier to read, use and administer*

The February amendments featured incorporation of a use classification system, updates of use tables, and revised definitions and terms. They gave the County Board rights to approve off-site parking for day care uses, sanctioned by-right interior repairs and alterations to nonconforming one and two-family dwellings and nonconforming accessory buildings and structures in select residential districts. They also included minor policy updates that codified administrative practices, increased clarity and consistency and corrected errors.

The April modifications revised the short-term indoor and outdoor events and activities provisions and clarified dry-cleaning uses consistent with today's practices. They also corrected errors introduced during the comprehensive reformatting of the ordinance adopted May 18, 2013.

The revisions also made allowance for short-term accessory outdoor cafés for up to 90 days per year, without a limit on the number of consecutive days; and permitted certain signs for these uses for up to 30 days prior to and during the event. Finally, the Zoning Administrator, rather than the County Board, can now renew short-term indoor and outdoor events and activities when an applicant files a site plan amendment for the use.

##### **Public Spaces Master Plan Update Underway**

An update of Arlington's 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) is now underway. In October, the PSMP Update Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from County commissions, County staff and the project consultants (Wallace Roberts & Todd) held a series of kickoff meetings that addressed the work process, the community engagement plan, and sought initial input from the participants. In addition, the County sponsored a parks and recreation needs survey conducted in December.

The County is conducting the update to evaluate the various aspects of Arlington's public spaces and provide future strategies for the full span of public spaces, including parks, natural resources and recreation facilities that make up that system.

Specifically, the update will evaluate the goals, objectives and policies of the 2005 PSMP and the progress made over the last 10 years, and test them against the current public space needs, priorities and community-identified values. The major elements of the work will include an inventory update, a needs assessment, policy review, gap analysis and implementation/action plan. The community as well as park and recreation stakeholders will be fully engaged in the endeavor.

An accessibility assessment of all park sites is a part of the update, which will result in a report detailing the County's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and provide recommendations for improvements. Staff will incorporate the findings into the PSMP and future capital projects.

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### **Approved Site Plan Projects**

#### **400 Army Navy Drive Redevelopment Guided by the Crystal City Sector Plan**

In January, the County Board approved the redevelopment of 400 Army Navy Drive – the third major site plan approved for the Crystal City area since the adoption of the 2010 Crystal City Sector Plan. The highlight of the approved proposal is a two-tower, 20-story building with 491,936 square feet and 453 residential units. Other features of the site include three levels of below-grade parking and two levels of above-grade parking with 453 spaces and an in-building wireless emergency responder communication system.

The project provides more than \$9.7 million in public benefits including beautification improvements to the “Teardrop Parcel,” \$1 million to the Army Navy Drive Complete Streets Project, a \$1.1 million contribution to Crystal City Open Space, and a \$280,000 contribution to traffic signal upgrades. It also contributed \$2.2 million to the Affordable Housing Investment Fund (AHIF), and when ready for occupation, 15 on-site committed affordable housing units.

The Board’s action also included vacating and abandoning portions of Old South Eads Street and rezoning of the property. The existing 1967 building known as the “Paper Clip” due to window patterns at the uppermost level, had been vacant due to the Base Realignment and Closure legislation and is set for demolition.



*An artist rendering of the future residential building at 400 Army Navy Drive*

#### **1307 N. Rolfe Street Redevelopment Addresses Community Priorities**



*An artist rendering of 1307 N. Rolfe St. redevelopment project*

The County Board approved the redevelopment of 1307 N. Rolfe St. in February that will replace seven single-family homes, an apartment building and a residential condominium building with two new residential buildings offering 395 units. The project also will replace the existing transitional living facility, Independence House, with a new expanded building.

In designing the site, the developer followed the guidelines of the Fort Myer Heights North Plan, which calls for affordable housing, public open space, preservation of significant mature trees and neighborhood character.

The developer will fund the new Independence House, which has been serving Arlington residents since 1993, and a new public park at the site. The affordable housing contribution consists of 39 committed affordable housing units, with 19 one-bedroom and 20 two-bedroom units.

The County provided 19,500 square feet of land for the complex, most of which (13,772 sq. ft.) it will continue to own when the development is completed. The project also provides on-site public art or a public art contribution, streetscape and sidewalk improvements and utility undergrounding, in-building wireless and funding for Transportation Demand Management.



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#### **1300 S. Rolfe St. Redevelopment, the First Approved Form Based Code Project**

In February, the County Board approved the redevelopment of 1300 S. Rolfe St., one of the first two projects within the Columbia Pike Neighborhoods Special Revitalization District approved in accordance with the 2013 Neighborhoods Form Based Code (N-FBC).

The project, called Carver Homes, will replace the George Washington Carver Mutual Homes Association of 44 townhouses, with 50 new townhouses, offering 73 dwelling units, including six affordable units. The new structures will meet green building standards and feature accessible entrances in compliance with the requirements of the N-FBC.



*Rendering of Carver Homes townhouses*

The complex also will feature a public mini-park that in October the Board approved naming George Washington Carver Park, as recommended by the Arlington View neighborhood and the Park and Recreation Commission. It is one of the 10 mini-park locations identified in the Neighborhoods Form Based Code.

There will also be private open spaces, vehicle and bicycle parking, internal street connections and perimeter streetscape improvements. Additionally, an amendment to the Master Transportation Plan will add a new segment of South Quinn Street and 13th Street to service the development.

The completed project will feature two historical markers to honor the African American history of the site and its architect. Their placement will be determined during the permitting process.

#### **1010 S. Fredrick St., Second Approved Form Base Code Project**

The Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing's (APAH) plan to build the new eight-story Columbia Hills apartment complex at 1010 S. Fredrick St. won County Board approval with a unanimous vote in February. The completed project will include 229 affordable multi-family dwelling units, community rooms, a new playground and underground parking. It is the second project approved within the Columbia Pike Neighborhoods Special Revitalization District.

The new building, an infill development, will replace a surface parking lot and playground. Parking will be located in the new building's garage, with the playground relocated on the site.

The project complies with the requirements of the Neighborhood Form Based Code (N-FBC) for building envelope, open space, vehicular and bicycle parking, accessibility and energy efficiency.

APAH will develop the site using a combination of Affordable Housing Investment Fund (AHIF) loans, low income housing tax credits and private loan funds.

The County approved approximately \$18.9 million total in AHIF loans to assist with the acquisition of land and the construction of the units. This is an average AHIF-cost per unit of about \$83,000, leveraging nearly \$4 for every \$1 of AHIF financing.



*Rendering of the Columbia Hills Apartments*

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#### 2025 Clarendon Blvd. Redevelopment Will Create a Gateway Feature

In March, the Board approved the redevelopment of 2025 Clarendon Blvd. with a 12-story office tower, underground parking and a public plaza. When completed, the project will create a gateway feature for the Courthouse area, which is in line with the 1993 Courthouse Sector Plan Addendum identification of the location as a “key redevelopment site.”

The Board also endorsed rezoning and a General Land Use Plan amendment for the site and the transfer of development rights that permitted the owner to move density from the Wakefield Manor and Courthouse Manor apartments to the project site, which, in turn, allowed for the preservation of those apartments and their market-rate affordable rentals.

The new building will be LEED Gold certified with ground floor retail. The provided community benefits include utility undergrounding, streetscape upgrades, and contributions to public art and the Affordable Housing Investment Fund.

This is the first site plan for an office development in Arlington that is subject to the 2013 Parking Reduction policy for commercial buildings. The Board approved the parking reduction along with the applicant’s contribution of \$145,500 toward the County’s construction of multi-modal transportation improvements and \$300,000 over 30 years toward enhanced Transportation Demand Management (TDM) for site users.



*Rendering of 2025 Clarendon Blvd. as a gateway feature*

#### WeWork Concept Introduced to Crystal City

In May, the County Board approved a site plan amendment request from CESC Plaza Limited Partnership to incorporate the “WeWork” concept into a planned Crystal City residential building. The Board’s action modified the site plan approved in July 2014 that permitted the conversion of the former Crystal Plaza 6 office building, at 2221 S. Clark St., into an apartment building with 252-efficiency units, common amenities and gathering spaces between floors.



*2221 S. Clark St. as it is today*

Under the WeWork proposal, two floors of the building now are designated for office space, bringing the same benefits of co-working to a residential building (shared amenities, a sense of community and opportunities for collaboration), but reducing the number of living units to 216. The project offers a new type of apartment living within walking distance of the Crystal City Metro Station, bus stops and Capital Bikeshare stations. It is a prototype for repurposing outdated buildings.

The developer created the project in partnership with the national WeWork Company that offers co-working offices in major metropolitan areas across the country. The Crystal City project is its first residential building.

The company has a 20-year lease on the building, which the Crystal City Sector Plan identifies for future re-development to advance the vision for a new public plaza along 23rd Street South and the realignment of South Clark/Bell Street.

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#### 672 Flats Project Greenlighted



*Artist Rendering of 672 Flats*

The County Board in October greenlighted the 672 Flats project, which when completed, will convert the existing Exxon service station and parking lot on Glebe Road in Ballston into a six-story residential building. The new building is the last piece in the long-planned transition from the former Ballston Common Mall to the nearby townhome communities built nearly 25 years ago.

The development will provide seven committed affordable units, contractually obligated to remain affordable for 30 years, and a \$75,000 public art fund contribution. The developer is also contributing special pavement treatment and maintenance of the public alley, and \$12,000 towards construction of a bus shelter and transit amenities. The project is earning bonus density for achieving U. S. Green Building Council's LEED, (or Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification at the Silver level.

Other benefits include sidewalk, curb, gutter and streetscape improvements, water, sewer and sanitary enhancements, undergrounding aerial utilities and a reimbursement to the County for transportation and parking performance-monitoring studies.

The plan adheres to the Ballston Sector Plan, the West Ballston Land Use Study and the Arlington County Retail Plan. Under the Retail Plan, the site can have retail sales, service, food establishments or retail equivalent. The developer committed to have retail storefronts at either end of the building on North Glebe Road.

#### Red Top Project to Transform Clarendon's West End

A redevelopment project that will have a dramatic impact on the western end of Clarendon won County Board approval in October. The development, known as the Clarendon West project, will result in the construction of three new residential buildings offering 580 residential units, and ground-level retail on the former Red Top Cab property. It also will change the area's block structure/road network and lead to improvements at the Washington Boulevard and 13th Street North intersection.

The community benefits package provided by the developer, the Shooshan Company, features six on-site committed affordable housing units within walking distance of the Clarendon Metrorail station, and land for the Washington Boulevard/13th Street Park envisioned in the Clarendon Sector Plan. Other benefits include streetscape improvements, and contributions to public art.

The redevelopment also includes an amendment to the block structure that deletes a portion of North Ivy Street south of 13th Street North, and shifts 12th Street North to the east. The developer will construct 12th Street North to provide a complete connection between North Hudson Street and Washington Boulevard, and will participate with the County in improvements to Washington Boulevard, 13th Street North and North Johnson Street.



*An aerial view of the new Clarendon West project*



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#### Ballston Quarter to Transform the Mall, Ballston District

In June, the County Board directed the County Manager to explore options for creating a public-private partnership with Forest City Enterprises for the redevelopment of Ballston Common Mall. Forest City Enterprises, the outdated mall's owner, proposed a project to convert the property into Ballston Quarter offering a more open, dynamic and outward-facing mixed-use development with 365,000 square feet of retail and 406 new residential units.

In November, the County Board approved the project that when completed will allow Ballston Quarter to better compete regionally for high-quality retailers and serve as a catalyst for the ongoing development and redevelopment of the Ballston area. Specifically, the Board approved the renovation of Ballston Common Mall with façade and interior improvements, the addition of an open space plaza and mews, streetscape upgrades and improvements to the Ballston Parking Garage. The project will take shape as a 22-story residential building and approximately 66,475 square feet of ground floor and second story retail.

Renovation of three levels of an existing office building above Macy's department store is included as well with façade improvements, the addition of new entrances on North Glebe Road and Wilson Boulevard, an interior courtyard and streetscape improvements.

Contributions to the Utility Undergrounding and Public Art funds and an affordable housing contribution in accordance with the Zoning Ordinance requirements highlight the community benefits gained from the project.



*Rendering of the new Ballston Quarter*

Also gaining approval was a non-binding letter of intent (LOI) between the County and Forest City for formation of the project's public-private partnership. The LOI spells out the primary terms and conditions of a future development agreement and specifies the tools the County intends to use for its financial participation in the project, such as the issuance of bonds through a Community Development Authority

(which the Board will create). The County will use incremental tax revenues generated by the project to repay the bonds. Additional terms of the LOI address risk mitigation in the event of revenue shortfalls, the County's financial participation in better than expected project performance, and responsibilities of each party in development of the project.

In all, based on current estimates, the County will invest approximately \$55.5 million — about 17.5 percent of the total estimated project cost of the \$317 million — in improvements to the public realm and building and development improvements.



*Rendering of shopping in the new Ballston Quarter*

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#### Arlington Presbyterian Church to Convert to Affordable Housing Development



*Rendering of Gilliam Place*

The Arlington Presbyterian Church has existed for more than 100 years, but its congregation is now down to less than 50 active members. In face of losing membership, in January, the church sold its property at 3507 Columbia Pike to Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH), who in the spring filed a preliminary application for redevelopment of the site.

In December, the Board approved APAH's proposal to build the Gilliam Place mixed-use apartment complex. APAH will build the complex in one phase as two separate and distinct low income housing tax credit (LIHTC) projects that when completed will provide 173 affordable residential units on the site of the existing church building, tot lot and surface parking lot. The church, as part of the proposal, is considering leasing ground floor space, with the possibility of designing the worship space in a non-traditional manner.

The Board also approved rezoning of the property and a request by APAH for an Affordable Housing Investment Fund loan, Transit Oriented Affordable Housing funds and affordable housing tax credits to help pay for the development. The arrangement will lock in the apartments' affordability for 60 years.

The development is named to honor Ronda Gilliam, (1906-1970), the church's first African American member and visionary church elder.

#### Ballston Oak Townhomes to Bring a Fresh Look to Ballston

During its last meeting of the year, the County Board approved a site plan amendment for the redevelopment of 1124-1138 N. Stuart St. in Ballston that permitted the construction of four new townhouse buildings, known as the Ballston Oak Townhomes. The development will replace four single-family detached houses built during the 1920's and 1930's.

The developer committed to providing a range of improvements and amenities such as a contribution to the County's Utility Underground Fund and completion of on-site streetscape improvements to include pavement-restriping, sidewalks, and curb and gutter infrastructure along all street frontages.

They also agreed to conduct a Transportation Demand Management program; and satisfy the Zoning Ordinance's affordable housing requirements by either contributing \$107,390 to the Affordable Housing Investment Fund or providing one affordable unit on-site.

Each of the new buildings will contain three single-family dwellings for a total of 12 units. Seven of the units will have main building entrances facing North Stuart Street, with the remainder accessed internally.



*Concept drawing of the Ballston Oak Townhomes*

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### Carpool Site Focus of Redevelopment

In December, the County Board approved a site plan amendment request to add site area to an existing site plan in order to construct a 22-story multifamily residential building in Ballston. Specifically, the Board approved the redevelopment of 4000 Fairfax Drive, the location of the existing Carpool Restaurant and the adjacent Webb Building, a 10-story office structure at 4040 Fairfax Drive. The applicant, Penzance, will combine the two sites, while maintaining the Webb building on the combined site.



*Rendering of residential building on the Carpool site*

Penzance will construct the residential building at the corner of North Quincy Street and Fairfax Drive. They will build a pedestrian connection between the existing office garage and new residential garage to permit resident parking in the office structure as well as create access to a future parking shelter on the Webb Building site.

Three retail spaces will complete the project. Two will front a courtyard notched out of the building at the corner of Fairfax Drive and North Quincy Street that will be accessible by pedestrians. The developer will site the third retail location on Fairfax Drive, and plant street trees and widen the sidewalks around the existing Webb Building to be closer to the standards in the Rosslyn Ballston Corridor Streetscape Standards.

Other community benefits include an approximately \$2.2 million contribution to the Affordable Housing Investment Fund; on-site public art or a cash payment to the Public Art fund, and a contribution to the Underground Utility Fund.

### Transportation

#### I-66 Multimodal Proposal Endorsed

In November, the County Board adopted a resolution endorsing, in concept, the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) I-66 inside the Beltway Multimodal Improvement Project. By supporting the plan, the County ensured it would have a voice in how the project affects Arlington communities.

County officials acknowledged in the resolution the value of the multimodal components and the generated revenue provide considerable benefits to the community. However, the statement calls on VDOT not to "pursue any widening of I-66 inside the Beltway until after a meaningful evaluation of the effectiveness of the project's tolling, HOV-3 and multimodal components" and no sooner than 2025.

The goal of the project is to ease congestion on Interstate 66 inside and outside the Capital Beltway by moving more people via new travel options and improving connectivity from the Capital Beltway to Lee Highway in Rosslyn. It relies on converting the current HOV lanes into HOV and tolled lanes (HOT) during peak periods to provide reliable trips for carpools, vanpools, buses and toll paying drivers. Vehicles with two or more people would travel the lanes free during peak periods, while vehicles with one person would pay a toll to use the lanes.

Plans call for the introduction of multimodal improvements within the I-66 corridor and on the parallel facilities funded by revenue generated by the tolls. The state plans to loan \$5 million to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) to fund the local improvements prior to the start of tolling. The Board also approved the Memorandum of Agreement amongst the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the NVTC that provides for using toll revenues to fund the tolling construction and operation, as well as multimodal improvements around I-66 inside the Beltway. It also details the mechanism for allocating the remaining toll revenue for multimodal projects.

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### Economic Sustainability

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### Neighborhood Complete Streets Program Guide Up for Consideration

In July 2014, the County Board established the Neighborhood Complete Streets Commission (NCSC) to work with staff to develop a new program to address traffic safety concerns on local streets. The Board also asked the group to assist with the development of the Neighborhood Complete Streets (NCS) Program and Program Guide.

In December, the County Board was set to consider the Program Guide, which details the guiding policies and procedures for evaluating proposed infrastructure improvements to neighborhood principal and minor streets for submission for County Board funding.

Prior to the NCS, residents relied on the Neighborhood Conservation program to identify street improvements for their neighborhoods. However, the NC program only recommends for funding those projects voted on and approved by local property owners. This means at times those projects that stand to benefit the greater community will not receive the necessary local support or receive recommendation for County Board consideration.

The Neighborhood Complete Streets program provides an alternative to NC funding, and the portion of the program addressed by the NCS Program Guide provides an opportunity for the public and County staff to identify potential street improvement projects for neighborhood streets. The program will evaluate all proposed projects with established criteria with the highest-rated projects nominated for implementation and funding by the County Board.

County staff worked over the past two years with the NCSC to develop the policies and procedures for the new NCS program. As part of the community outreach process for the program development, the County conducted an on-line community survey and received nearly 1,000 responses. The respondents expressed great support for the program's goals

and provided feedback on the proposed project priority setting criteria. The projects of greatest interest to the respondents are those that will result in new sidewalks to close gaps in the walkway network and improve pedestrian safety, particularly in areas near schools, public facilities and transit stations. The survey responses helped the NCSC and staff to refine the project prioritization criteria and scoring system.

### Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway Progresses

Construction of Arlington's first dedicated transitway and new stations progressed during 2015 as the County completed the new transit lanes in Potomac Yard and brought all seven stations to near completion with structural frames, windscreens, platforms, and new curbs and sidewalks.



#### *South Glebe Crystal City transitway station under construction*

The 4.5-mile transitway between the Crystal City and Braddock Road Metrorail stations will provide faster, more reliable bus service along the Route 1 corridor.

Arlington's section includes an all-day dedicated transit lane in Potomac Yard, a peak period transit lane in Crystal City and seven new transit stations. Separating bus service from traffic will save time for all travelers throughout the corridor.



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#### ART Bus Service Expanded, Improved



Arlington Transit (ART) supplements Metrobus service in Arlington with cross-county routes as well as neighborhood connections to Metrorail. During 2015, the County continued to

enhance ART bus service to meet the demands of a growing ridership.

In January, the ART 84 (Douglas Park-Nauck-Pentagon City) weekday afternoon timetable was improved and the service added a bus stop at the Avalon Bay at Arlington Ridge complex, and in July, the County increased the frequency of the evening and weekend service on the ART 41 (Columbia Pike-Ballston-Courthouse) line.

The County also extended the peak service and frequency for ART 43 (Crystal City-Rosslyn-Courthouse), while ART 87 (Pentagon Metro-Army Navy Drive-Shirlington) initiated extended evening and Saturday service, added Sunday service and redirected weekend service to serve Pentagon City instead of the Pentagon. The 87P (South Lang Street to Pentagon in the evening) route also was added during the weekday evening peak period to provide better service to the Long Branch Creek neighborhood.

In December, ART 42 (Ballston-Pentagon) improved its Saturday service, and added and re-directed Sunday service to serve Pentagon City instead of the Pentagon. The ART 45 (Columbia Pike-DHS/Sequoia-Rosslyn) line offered improved peak period frequencies and night service and began offering weekend service. A new ART route, ART 55 (East Falls Church-Lee Highway-Rosslyn), debuted to replace the Metrobus 3A service on Lee Highway between the East Falls Church and Rosslyn Metrorail stations. The new route provides

more frequent midday and weekend service while lowering the County's operating costs. To handle the increase in service and ridership, ART deployed eight new 40-foot Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses, and completed major component upgrades on eight older buses to enhance service reliability and extend useful life.

#### Work Continues on the Columbia Pike Transit Stations

In January, the County started engineering and design work for the new transit stations along Columbia Pike, that involves developing detailed construction plans and specifications based on the design concept unveiled last year.

The County's project team invited residents, bus riders, and other stakeholders to provide input on the various station amenities and the proposed configuration of station elements at an open house on April 28. The feedback received helped to inform the final design.

During the summer, the project team completed the station template design, which includes five standardized station sizes, and began site-specific designs for the first eight station locations.

Compared to a typical bus stop, the stations will shelter more passengers and include real-time transit information displays, a higher curb for easier vehicle boarding, seating and lighting for safety. The stations will serve the community's vision of transforming the Pike into a more transit-



*Rendering of Columbia Pike new transit station*



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#### Car2Go Gets a Test Drive in Arlington

An agreement approved by the County Board in June allowed carsharing company Car2go to bring its service to Arlington for a yearlong demonstration study. Car2go allows its members to pick up a car in one location and drop it off in another, known as point-to-point.

This initiative responds to the rapidly changing face of mobility options and technology; the needs of Arlington residents, workers and visitors; and the County's continued pursuit of smart growth solutions that enhance the community.



#### *Car2Go brings point-to-point carsharing to Arlington*

Under Car2go's carsharing model, its users, or members can take one form of transit for one part of their trip and use carsharing for another. The demonstration study will allow drivers to park Car2go vehicles in on-street parking spaces within Arlington without having to pay parking meter fees. They only pay for vehicle use by the minute, which is a bundle rate that includes all costs.

The study will allow the County to test the service and evaluate how this particular carsharing option benefits Arlington residents and employees. It will also provide the data and community feedback on the service model, and inform options for the future of the County's carsharing program.

Following a full year of service operation, County staff will review the program to determine if it provides a useful and integrated travel alternative that supports the vision of the County's Master Transportation Plan.

#### Capital Bikeshare Now Takes Cash, Planning Expansion

Arlington became the first locality in the country to accept cash payments for an annual Capital Bikeshare membership and user fees when it began a one-year pilot program in January to expand Capital Bikeshare usage to those who prefer to pay with cash to join or do not have credit or debit cards. To obtain a membership, new riders need only present a current government-issued photo ID with their Arlington address shown, such as a driver's license, a passport, Permanent Resident Card or Employment Authorization Card along with a copy of a utility bill dated within the past 60 days with their name and Arlington address.

In addition, in July, the County Board voted unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with federal and state authorities to accept federal funding for the installation of eight new Capital Bikeshare stations along the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

The new stations will help fill Capital Bikeshare gaps between Arlington County, Washington, D.C. and the City of Alexandria. While the County will own the stations, they will be located on property owned by the National Park Service, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and the Department of Defense, who will help determine their locations. County staff estimates installation will begin in summer 2016 and then continue for a year as the County receives approvals from property owners, and any needed permits or easements.



#### *Capital Bikeshare is a favorite commuter option*

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#### Real-time Traffic Information Now Available

The County manages 180 traffic cameras located at critical intersections throughout Arlington. The cameras allow County staff to monitor the roadways and provide orderly movement of traffic. The County's Emergency Communications Center and Police Department also use the system for incident management.

Now, residents, workers and visitors can view live, high-quality traffic videos of County streets seamlessly from a County website. Launched in September, the site provides a real-time look at traffic conditions in the area of any of the cameras. Users can view a map of the County from any mobile or desktop device that shows blue camera icons at the location of each traffic camera. By clicking on any of the icons, they can access the live traffic camera feed from that area.

The County has been upgrading the traffic signal communications network from copper cable to fiber over the last few years. This state-of-the-art technology improves the cameras reliability and provides for higher-quality feeds. It also will help the County implement a Smart Traffic Signal System, which integrates real-time traffic monitoring with variable message signs, Bluetooth devices, video detections and traffic cameras. Upgrades will continue through spring of 2016.

#### Parking Meter Rates Increased

The County Board in May approved a 25 cent-per-hour increase in metered parking rates. The increase offers the County a way to optimize on-street parking opportunities, especially for those businesses in high-demand areas that need short-term on-street parking spaces for their customers.

The amendment allowed for increasing the maximum hourly rate for metered long-term parking (four hours or more) to \$1.25 per hour, up from \$1 per hour. The maximum hourly rate for short-term rates increased from \$1.25 per hour to \$1.50.

The County uses parking meters to encourage parking turnover and to manage curb space, particularly during times of greatest demand. The rates can help encourage parking turnover and the use of off-street parking garages. The changes will also help achieve the goals adopted in the Parking Element of Arlington's Master Transportation Plan.



*Paying at a multi-space parking meter*

The County last raised rates in 2011. Since then, curbside management pressures and parking operating costs have increased particularly in the evenings, while Arlington's parking meter rates have remained the same, and a lower cost than in other parts of the region.

#### EasyPark, Arlington's New Parking Meter Service Introduced

In March, the County introduced the EasyPark in-vehicle parking meter. The successor to Arlington's iPark device, EasyPark combines the ease of coin-free/credit card-free parking with the convenience of internet customer service as users can purchase and add money to the device online.

EasyPark costs \$30, which includes \$25 for the device and \$5 for parking time. The County adds a bonus \$5 parking time for a total of \$10 parking time. Users also pay sales tax for each unit. EasyPark will automatically update with new parking rules every time users connect.

# ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

### FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

*Arlington leaders continually take steps to ensure the County's fiscal sustainability. This has allowed it once again to receive the coveted Triple-AAA bond rating, confirming the County's status as one of the most financially stable municipalities in the United States, and adopt a \$1.16 billion General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 that fully supported the Arlington Public School Board's request for the eighth consecutive year. Additionally, the County took action increase transparency in its financial operations with the development of a Financial, Fraud, Waste Abuse Hotline and Whistleblower policy for employees and enhancement of its internal audit function.*

#### County's AAA ratings Bond Ratings Reaffirmed

Bond ratings indicate a bond issuer's financial strength, or its ability to pay a bond's principal and interest in a timely fashion. For the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, bond-rating agencies Moody's, Fitch and Standard & Poor's rated Arlington County's debt as Aaa/AAA/AAA – the highest score possible. Arlington is one of only 39 counties, out of more than 3,000, in the United States to hold this distinction.

In assigning a rating for general obligation bonds, the rating agencies evaluated the County's economy, debt structure, financial condition, demographic factors and management practices. Standard & Poor's noted in their announcement, "the stable outlook reflects our opinion of Arlington County's strong economy, excellent financial management and moderate debt." Fitch in explaining its rating cited "the County's financial profile remains sound and well managed, and its debt levels are expected to remain moderate given prudent planning and adherence to conservative debt policies." Moody's followed commenting, "the stable outlook reflects our expectation of continued stability in the diversifying base and sound financial operations."

With Aaa/AAA/AAA ratings, the County can borrow funds at the lowest possible interest rates for capital investments. It also is critical to

guaranteeing the lowest interest rates on the sale of General Obligation bonds, which ensure effective use of tax dollars for County and Schools bond-financed undertakings.

#### Low Interest Rates Provide Substantial Savings

In June, the County issued \$77 million of General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds, and received seven bids, with Morgan Stanley & Co, LLC being the successful buyer with an average interest rate of 2.8 percent. The low average interest rate received on the bonds is a result of the County's Triple-AAA bond ratings, a reflection of the County's conservative budget management and strong fiscal operations.

Proceeds of the sale will finance projects approved by the County Board, including the County's capital contributions for Metro, Neighborhood Conservation, WalkArlington, BikeArlington, ConnectArlington, Maintenance Capital and Arlington Public Schools projects.

The County also refinances outstanding bond issues to save money. In 2015, the County saved

\$2.2 million in reduced interest rates on two Virginia Resources Authority's Wastewater and Water System Revenue Bonds over the next 14 years. The loans were one of the funding sources used to fund the \$568 million upgrade and expansion of the County's Water Pollution Control Plant.



*An aerial view of Arlington*

# ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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### Arlington Real Estate Assessments Increased

Arlington County real estate assessments for 2015 showed an overall increase in property values over 2014. From January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015, Arlington's real property tax base increased by 3.4 percent, largely driven by strength in the residential market and new construction in commercial properties. The overall health of Arlington's property values is due to its mix of commercial and residential properties, 48.2 and 51.8 percent respectively.

Arlington's commercial tax base (office space, apartments, general commercial and hotel buildings) increased by 1.3 percent. The value of residential properties, single-family detached homes and condominiums, also increased with the average assessment up from \$552,700 in 2014 to \$579,800 in 2015. Eighty-seven percent of residential property owners saw an increase in their assessments; while 6 percent saw no change and 7 percent had a decrease. Assessment variations reflect the diversity in housing stock.

Real estate assessments are appraisals of the value for each parcel of real property conducted according to accepted methods, techniques and standards of the real estate appraisal and assessment profession. The 2015 assessment is an estimate of the fair market value as of January 1, 2015.



*Arlington's commercial tax base increased in value by 1.3 percent*

### Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Balances Community Needs

The County Board adopted a \$1.16 billion General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 in April. The spending plan reflects a focus on Arlington Public Schools, economic development, public safety, court services and social safety net programs. It also showed County officials' commitment to investing in the County's future economic stability and services that enhance Arlingtonians' quality of life. In total, the County's budget rose 1.1 percent from FY 2015.

The County Board was able to increase funding to Schools while keeping the real estate tax rate flat over calendar year 2014. Ongoing funding to School totals \$451.6 million, an increase of 4.5 percent and increased the total local tax transfer to Schools from 45.9 percent to 46.5 percent. In comparison, County operations grew 2.1 percent and included a number of service reductions to fund Schools and other critical County programs.

The spending plan allowed for the expansion economic development and public safety. The Board added \$1.4 million to increase funding for economic development including funding to support marketing activities and expanded support of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization, and TandemNSI, a public-private partnership to promote connections between Arlington-based high-tech firms and government.

Public safety funding paid for additional staff for the detention facility, expansion of the Drug Court program, a salary supplement for the Public Defender's office and additional jail-based mental health services.

Housing programs, in addition, received \$12.5 million for the Affordable Housing Investment Fund and housing grants program at \$8.9 million, a \$1 million increase over FY 2015. The Board also and continued support of the AIRE programs, which promotes environmental sustainability throughout the County.



# ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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### Transparency in Financial Operations Enhanced

Transparency in the County's financial operations took on added importance in 2015, which led to enhancement of the County's internal audit function and the implementation of a Financial Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline and Whistleblower Policy for County employees

**Internal Audit Function:** During the course of 2015, the County used an external audit firm to supplement staff resources completing several audits that are now available on the County's web site. The County also conducted a risk assessment of County operations to inform the 2016 work plan for the Internal Audit unit.

**Financial Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline:** In furtherance of Arlington's commitment to good and ethical government, the County unveiled an Employee Financial Fraud, Waste & Abuse Hotline in May. The hotline is a confidential and secure way for Arlington County Government employees to report suspected financial deceit or misuse. An experienced third-party provider runs the service and employees may choose to remain anonymous when reporting.

**Whistle Blower Policy:** Arlington developed an administrative Whistleblower Policy that protects employees who choose to identify themselves when making a financial fraud or waste abuse report. The hotline and whistleblower policy jointly help to ensure that County employees continue to practice high ethical standards and foster a safe environment for employees to report suspicions of financial corruption.

### County Recognized for Financial Reporting

The County received an unqualified audit opinion for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for Fiscal year 2015 that ended June 30, 2015. Receiving "the best possible" opinion is critical to maintaining Arlington's Triple-A bond ratings. The CAFR provides a detailed report of the County's financial condition at the end of each fiscal year.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) also recognized the report with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The County also received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation recognition for the adopted Fiscal Year 2015 budget.

### County Retirement Fund on Solid Footing

In October, the County announced that the Arlington County Employees' Retirement System is solid and in 2015 climbed to "99 percent funded," meaning there are enough assets to pay virtually all of the retirement benefits earned to date by retirees and current employees.

Arlington's sound fiscal management meant that during the latest recession when many states and localities were slashing or delaying contributions, Arlington's contribution rate increased to make up for lower returns on investments. That peaked at 24 percent in Fiscal Year 2015, meaning 24 percent of all the regular compensation paid to employees by the County, excluding items like overtime. In dollar terms, those County contributions totaled \$58 million. Subsequent strong investment returns have served to lower the contribution rate to 22 percent for the current fiscal year.

Arlington's pension plan is one of the contributing factors helping to maintain the County's AAA bond rating.



*Arlington employees will benefit from a strong pension plan for years to come*

# ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

*Arlington's environmental programs focus on practices that preserve the national environment to satisfy the present needs of Arlington residents without jeopardizing the needs of future residents. These programs include promoting wise energy use, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and exploring the development of a Zero Waste goal. In 2015, it also meant the adoption of year-round yard waste collection to divert material from the waste stream, acquiring land for public parks and community gardens and taking steps to support and add to Arlington's tree canopy.*

#### Rethinking Energy in Arlington

The Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy (AIRE) continues to help the Arlington community use energy wisely, recognizing that smart energy use



benefits the economy, the health of the environment, as well as safety and security. Highlights of the County's

energy savings efforts in 2015 include:

**Energy Efficiency Gains:** The County's Commercial Lighting Rebate Program helped 32 businesses upgrade more than 6,000 light fixtures, which save more than \$350,000 and 3.4 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of energy for the community annually. That is equal to the annual energy used by 213 homes. To encourage the switch to LED in the residential sector, the County also provided nearly 1,000 residents with an LED light bulb in exchange for one old, inefficient incandescent bulb.

Also, three multi-family site plan projects achieved their Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certification using Arlington's Green Building Incentive program.

**District Energy Planning:** County staff anticipates completing two Integrated Energy Master Plans (IEMP) at the end of 2015 to assess the feasibility of incorporating district energy systems in Courthouse Square and the Crystal City/Pentagon City neighborhoods. A district energy system supplies energy efficient heating and/or cooling from a central plant via a network of underground

pipes. If the IEMPs conclude that district energy projects are economically and technically viable for these neighborhoods, the County will determine the next steps and timing.

**Arlington Solar Co-op Shines:** The County collaborated with the *Northern Virginia Sun* newspaper to promote the 2015 Arlington Solar Co-op. The Co-op allows residents to save over 30 percent of the cost of a solar photovoltaic system through the power of bulk purchasing. To date, 38 residents have purchased systems totaling over 150 kilowatts of capacity, representing nearly a 50 percent increase in the number of solar energy systems in Arlington.

**County Government Leading by Example:** The County retrofitted buildings to reduce energy use, including installing new heat pumps and improved controls at Glencarlyn Library that reduced electricity use by 25 percent and a boiler replacement project at the Residential Program Center that reduced natural gas use by 30 percent. The County also performed a lighting retrofit at Cherrydale Library that delivered better light quality and energy savings.

**Raising Energy Awareness in the Community:** The County continually encourages residents to take energy saving actions in their homes. As of October, over 916 residents had taken the challenge and made adjustments in their homes, potentially saving over \$30,000 in reduced household energy costs annually. In January, the County hosted its third annual Energy Journey Game and attracted more than 300 residents. In addition, the AIRE Team recently began a sponsored column on local news website *ARLnow.com* to increase energy awareness in the community.

## ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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#### Green Home Choice Reaches Milestone

The Green Home Choice (GHC) program achieved an important milestone in 2015 with the certification of its 200<sup>th</sup> home in collaboration with over 50 participating builders. Energy experts project that on average GHC homes are 40 percent more efficient than the average home that meets current building code standards.

Green Home Choice homes include 17 solar systems (for a total of 45 kilowatts) and 16 geothermal heating and cooling systems. The program has an additional 116 homes registered that are scheduled to complete certification within 24 months.

The program also certified Arlington's first Department of Energy Zero Net Energy house this year. A Zero Net Energy Home generates as much energy as it uses in a year.

The GHC program collaborated with Arlington TV (ATV) to produce a multi-part video documentary on the construction of Arlington's second Passive House. The video series, titled "How to Build a Better Home," attracted more than 1,300 views and runs daily on ATV.

Green Home Choice is a free, voluntary program. Homeowners receive points for being energy and resource efficient, sustainable and for providing a healthy living environment. In addition to certificates, program participants receive front-of-the-line architectural plan review, lawn signs, recognition by the County Board, media attention recognition on the County's website.



*2013-2014 Certified Green Home Choice residence*

#### Year-Round Yard Waste Collection Comes to Arlington

November saw the adoption of year-round yard waste curbside collection services for Arlington households with the County Board's adoption of an amendment to the County's refuse code.

Arlington's existing seasonal leaf collection season lasts 10 weeks in the fall, followed by the collection of yard waste such as leaves, plants, shrub trimmings and small branches, six weeks in the spring. During the rest of the year, the County handles yard waste as trash, which it transports to the waste-to-energy facility in Alexandria for conversion to energy.



The year-round yard waste service will begin in April 2016 and County officials expect it to divert up to 9,000 more tons of compostable material from the waste stream, increasing Arlington's recycling rate by up to 13 percent. The County's current residential recycling rate is among the highest in the region, at 47.2 percent.

Residents have the option of using a County-provided organics yard waste cart for yard waste recycling, or can use biodegradable paper bags, tied bundles or personal household containers to set out yard waste on collection day. The County will continue to provide biodegradable paper bags to residents in the fall and spring, the busiest seasons for yard waste.

Litigation by unsuccessful bidders for the County's refuse contract halted previous efforts to begin the service in 2014. The extended delay gave the County time to gather public input on the proposed service via an online residential survey in September. The results showed that 60 percent of respondents supported implementing collection of separated yard waste throughout the year.

## ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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#### County to Explore Zero Waste Goal

In November, the County Board approved a resolution which committed the County to exploring the development of a Zero Waste Goal that if implemented could divert 90 percent of the community's waste away from landfills or waste to energy facilities by 2038. The plan also would serve as a revised Solid Waste Management Plan for the County, which state law requires.

Citing long-term increases in disposal costs and the desire to increase recycling, the Board instructed the County Manager to collaborate with the community and the County's Solid Waste Committee to develop the Plan.

Arlington's Zero Waste resolution is the first in Virginia and the initial step in developing a long-term environmentally and economically sound waste reduction strategy for the County. It follows the County's 2004 effort of setting a voluntary goal of achieving a 47.2 percent recycling rate by 2024, which it surpassed in 2014. Should the County adopt a Zero Waste policy, it would be one of only a few dozen communities in the United States to do so.

Some of the ways the County could achieve Zero Waste include adopting new waste reduction initiatives, expanding organics composting and recycling programs and construction and demolition recycling and reuse.



*With Zero Waste, scenes like this will be a thing of the past*

#### StormwaterWise Landscapes Projects Serve as Case Studies for Stormwater Management

In 2015, the County completed a two-year, \$80,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the StormwaterWise Landscapes program. This program resulted in the installation of 96 small-scale projects that will reduce stormwater runoff from private property, including five pavement removal projects, 45 conservation landscapes, one cistern, 17 rain gardens and 27 pervious driveways/walkways.



*A pervious driveway installed as part of the Stormwater Wise Program*

The program leveraged the investment of \$3 of private funds for every \$1 of financial incentives for installation of stormwater facilities on private property. The completed projects will serve as demonstration sites or case studies for stormwater management options for homeowners.

The StormwaterWise Landscapes Program provides residents and business owners with funding to install small-scale practices that will reduce stormwater runoff from their property.

Stormwater carries pollutants such as oil, bacteria from pet waste, sediment and lawn chemicals to local streams. By installing barriers that collect or slows stormwater, such as raingardens or pervious driveways, residents can help keep pollutants out of streams.



## ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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#### Land Acquisitions Add to County Open Space

The County strategically continues to add to Arlington parkland. This year was no different as the County acquired land to expand existing parks or secured promises from developers to create or donate property for the creation of new parks.

The Board endorsed the purchase of two properties for future expansion of the 11-acre Benjamin Banneker Park. The first, approved in February, was property at 6608 18th St. N. for \$688,710. Staff plans to remove the house currently standing on the property and incorporate its site into the existing park. The 8,375-square-foot lot is adjacent to the Four Mile Run stream. The County completed the sale in April. In December, the Board approved the purchase of the second parcel, at 6616 18th St. N., for \$637,500. The property is approximately 8,250 square feet in size and adjacent to the playground and Four Mile Run Stream. Plans call for removing the house currently located on the site. The County identified both parcels in the 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan as potential public acquisition sites. Funding for the purchase of both properties came from the County's Parkland Acquisitions Program. The County acquired five other parcels on 18th Street North for the park between 1993 and 2004.

In February, with the approval of the 1307 N. Rolfe Street redevelopment project, the County gained a new 8,000-square foot public park, Three Oaks Park, that will feature mature oak trees, a small play feature, café tables, seating, a drinking fountain, and a tree timeline or another historic preservation marker.

In September, the Board approved the purchase of a home and surrounding property at 2827 N. Harrison St. to expand the adjacent Chestnut Hills Park. The Board agreed to a purchase price of \$728,000 for the 9,632 square foot lot, located on the east side of North Harrison Street between 27th Street North and Little Falls Road. The County plans to deconstruct the house in 2016 and restore the site.

Additionally, as part of the community benefits package gained from the Board's October endorsement of the redevelopment of the former Red Top Cab property was the contribution of land to create the Clarendon Sector Plan's recommended Washington Boulevard/13th Street Park.



*Chestnut Hills Park*

#### Expansion of Arlington Community Gardens Meets Urban Agriculture Task Force Goal

One of the recommendations from the County's 2013 Urban Agriculture Task force called for the expansion of Arlington's community gardens to increase fresh food production and access to healthier foods. Twice in 2015, the County took steps to meet this goal.

In February, the County obtained an agreement with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and Dominion Virginia Power for the use of nearly a quarter-acre of land along the Washington & Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail at Four Mile Run to expand the Four Mile Run Community Garden. This increased the garden by 9,900 square feet that yielded up to 44 new garden plots.

The second action took place in July when the Board approved the \$699,000 purchase of a home, at 2822 S. Arlington Ridge Road, to expand the adjacent Lang Street Community Garden by up to 45 half plots. Before the purchase, the garden, on 1.2 acres, accommodated 70 full- and half-size garden plots.

In total, Arlington has seven community gardens, with about 300 plots, run by individual garden associations with their own sets of bylaws.

# ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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### Landscape, Forestry Efforts Making a Difference



*Arlington's tree and landscaping programs are highly regarded*

One of the County's most highly rated environmental efforts is the work of its Landscape and Forestry program. This year, the program staff planted 804 trees on County property, and distributed 577 trees to residents for planting on private property through the annual Tree Distribution Program, and in partnership with Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment through the Tree Canopy Fund Grant Program. Developer contributions to the County's Tree Canopy Fund paid for the trees planted on private property.

The County's native plant nursery supports restoration and other conservation efforts with local ecotype plants and more. The nursery grows grasses, trees, shrubs, sedges, asters, milkweeds and goldenrods, which the County uses for restoration plantings as they mature quickly.

During the year, the County sponsored a number of events at local parks for volunteers to remove invasive plants and nearly 500 volunteers contributed more than 3,000 hours to restore approximately 193 acres of parkland in County parks. Additionally, contractors treated well over 200 acres of park space targeting the removal of invasive plant material such as kudzu, Java dropwort and Japanese knotweed.

As a testament to the effectiveness of the County's efforts, in November, the Arbor Day Foundation presented the County a Tree City USA "Sterling Award." Arlington is one of only four state jurisdictions to receive the honor.

### New Trees Added to the Notable Tree Registry

Since 1987, Arlington has registered 299 trees as part of the Notable Tree Program, an initiative of the County's Beautification Committee, which recognizes some of the County's oldest, rarest, or exceptional trees as well the residents who maintain and preserve them. In April, the County added 16 trees to the Notable Tree registry.

The committee scores the trees on their height, circumference and canopy spread. Healthy trees that score in average range qualify for a certificate. A tree that scores in the top range for that species, and is located in an area that a plaque would be visible to the public receives a plaque.

### 2015 Notable Tree Plaque Winners

- American Sycamore at 1414 N. Buchanan St.
- White Oak at 1830 N. Inglewood St.
- Southern Red Oak at 1207 N. Harrison St.
- Hawkin's Oak at 5215 26th St. N.
- White Oak at 3059 S. Abingdon St.
- Willow Oak at 816 S. Walter Reed Drive
- Dawn Redwood, at 1812 N. Randolph St.
- Atlas Cedar at North Adams Street, Custis Road & 16th Street North

### 2015 Notable Tree Certificate Winners

- Willow Oak at 2924 N. Lexington St.
- Tulip Tree at 4105 40th St. N.
- Silver Maple at 2012 N. Kenilworth St.
- Willow Oak, at 4024 N. Randolph St.
- Japanese Zelcova at North Irving Street & 13th Street North
- Catalpa at 402 N. Cleveland St.
- American Elm at 4120 Nelly Custis Drive
- American Holly at 3737 4th St. N.

# ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & INCLUSION

*The County deems civic engagement important to ensure Arlington is an inclusive and welcoming community. It regularly calls on the more than 50 official advisory groups, ad-hoc groups, task forces and work groups to provide guidance and input on important community issues. This year, this took the form of work by the Community Facilities study group to explore a new siting process for major County and Schools facilities, and the graduation of the 15th Neighborhood College Class. Other efforts included recognition of the County's Vietnamese and Mongolian communities and the first steps in forming a Military and Veterans Affairs Committee to look for creative, effective ways to serve Arlington's active duty military population, veterans and their families.*

#### Civic Engagement

##### Community Facilities Study Group Proposes New Siting Process

In January, the Arlington County Board, in conjunction with the Arlington School Board, commenced a broad-based, yearlong community facilities planning effort, later known as the Community Facilities Study.

The purpose of the effort was to develop a framework for assessing the County's public facilities and establishing criteria for locating new facilities and financing their construction. The initiative also focused on providing the County and Schools a "common set of principles" for making land use and facility decisions. A 24-member study group, representing a cross-section of the community, led the study. In September, the group presented its recommendations for a new siting process for future, significant County or School facilities or expansions that require a physical location, due to either relocation or the construction of a new facility. The practice, which can be adapted to determine the preferred use(s) for a known site available for development, consists of four phases and identifies steps and outcomes of each:

- Phase 1-Scope identified use and process;
- Phase 2- Identify potential sites;
- Phase 3-Evaluate a short list of sites;
- Phase 4-Decision.

The committee also proposed six principles to guide all siting processes that addressed transparency, timing and funding, balancing needs, distribution of facilities and the need to guide

discussions and decisions with established plans, policies and goals.

In November, the group presented its final recommendations that focused on better alignment of County and Schools community efforts, including the creation of a new, three-

tiered structure to improve planning and decision-making, consisting of a Facility Strategic Planning committee, a joint County-Schools staff team and a new Joint Facility Advisory Commission.

The group envisions the new groups working together to improve coordination and collaboration between the County and APS, establish and implement a process to identify facility needs early, raise awareness of needs with the community and provide opportunities for input. They also would monitor demographic and economic data to influence decision-making; and strategize alternative solutions before the Capital Improvement Plan funding prioritization and specific siting processes begin.

The County Board directed the County Manager to respond to the group's recommendations sometime in the first quarter of 2016.



# ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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### Volunteer Program to Shift to a Public-Private Partnership

In 2014, the County Manager formed the Volunteer Arlington Advisory Task Force to develop recommendations for modifying the countywide Volunteer Arlington program to enhance its service to County residents, non-profit organizations and County agencies. In May of this year, the County Board adopted the group's recommendation to convert the program to a public-private partnership between the County and a non-profit agency selected through a competitive bid process.

The task force advised that the partnership receive ongoing County funding and oversight by both the County and an advisory board with representation from key stakeholder groups. The group also recommended that the partnership increase its outreach and promotional efforts to recruit volunteers; improve the County's technology solutions used to match residents with volunteer opportunities, data tracking and performance measurement; and enhance its outreach to diverse populations including teens, young adults, seniors, new Americans and those with low incomes or may lack technology tools.

The task force's primary mission was to determine whether outsourcing the Volunteer Arlington program would enhance volunteer activity across the County, and to recommend changes within the program's ongoing budget and with one-time startup funding.



### Ongoing Volunteer Efforts Enhancing Program Delivery



*Arlington Library Talking Books volunteers*

While the County's central volunteer program is shifting, the use of volunteers remains a critical component of service delivery for several County agencies. For instance, in Fiscal Year 2015, the Department of Parks and Recreation received assistance from 13,960 volunteers who collectively provided an estimated \$19.9 million of in-kind service. In addition, 23 park facilities are part of the Adopt-A-Park program, whereby community members, including businesses, civic groups and individuals, support various spaces and facilities.

Also during that period, volunteers contributed nearly 24,000 hours to Arlington Public Library. The Library processed more than 290 volunteer applications and interviewed more than 125 potential volunteers. The Library has a troop of more than 200 regular volunteers who assist with a variety of services including circulation and donation processing, welcome desk, graphic design, computer assistance and materials repair.

Additionally, over 100 volunteers participated in the County's stream bacteria and macroinvertebrate monitoring programs, providing over 900 volunteer hours. Through Arlington's storm drain marking program, volunteers contributed 150 hours, marked 29 miles of the stormwater drainage network, including over 1,319 storm drains with the "Only Rain Down the Drain" storm drain markers.



# ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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### Neighborhood College Graduates Mirror Arlington's Diversity



*2015 Neighborhood College Graduates*

Arlington's Neighborhood College, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, provides the knowledge and skills necessary for residents from across the county to get involved in local issues that affect theirs and their neighbors' day-to-day lives.

Its 2015 class graduated in November. The 25-member group reflected the diversity that has become typical for the program and the Arlington community. It included those who learned about Neighborhood College through civic groups, professional interests or just curiosity and a desire to learn more about Arlington. Others wanted to learn how to help their neighbors.

Through eight weekly sessions, participants learned, practiced and sharpened their core communication and influencing skills, including giving and receiving feedback, asking questions that will elicit the most helpful responses, building consensus, and organizing for action. The sessions featured conversations with representatives from the County Board, the County Manager's Office, Arlington Public Schools, the Department of Human Services, Public Safety and Neighborhood Conservation. The 2015 class join the program's 317 past graduates, many of whom have gone on to become neighborhood leaders, members of advisory groups and commissions and officers in their civic associations.

### Strengthening Communications and Outreach with New Subscription Service

In order for individuals to participate in the community, they first need to know what is going on and how they can get involved. In July 2015, the County launched an improved email subscription service to make it much easier for residents to stay informed on topics of most interest to them.

Users can customize their subscriptions and preferences, all from the same place. Nearly 100 different topics are available on a wide range of issues -- from news releases to crime reports to trash and recycling news to specific projects updates. Previously, subscribers had to go to different places to find and manage all their various County subscriptions.

The new tool is more efficient for the dozens of County staff who use it as it offers an expanded set of features and reporting capabilities -- including the ability to better target information to the community. It also ensures more of the County's messages get to email boxes.

Following the launch of this new channel, County staff saw a marked increase in overall subscribers (about 58,000 at time of this report), as well as an uptick in the number of topics to which each user subscribes.

#### eSubscriptions & eUpdates

##### Main County News Channels

Enter your email below to see a list of news offerings to which you can subscribe.



## ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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#### Parks & Recreation Participants Help Shape Important Decisions

The County's parks and recreation programs have long provided opportunities for civic engagement and 2015 was no different. The County invited Arlington residents and other stakeholders to participate in a number of park master planning and park design opportunities including helping to redesign the Powhatan Spring Park skate facility and Lubber Run Community Center.

The Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee, for instance, has a critical role in the civic engagement process started in April to determine the next steps in the development of the park as its charge includes helping staff develop final recommendations for the park's build-out.

In addition, residents worked closely with staff and a design consultant to develop a park master plan for the Rosslyn Highlands Park. They provided feedback through a series of community workshops and an online survey and comment portal; and members of the Park and Recreation Commission, Urban Forestry Commission and the surrounding civic associations participated in development of the concept design for the park.

These are just a few highlights, but the public is engaged in a range of the department's activities helping it to earn a reputation as one of the most progressive and innovative programs in its industry.

#### Virginia Highland Park to Debut New Kiosk

The County is installing an outdoor kiosk at the newly developed Virginia Highland Park near Aurora Hills Library and Fire Station 5 in Crystal City. The kiosk will display local park information, emergency notifications and County related content and initiatives. This display will allow digital signage in direct daylight and at night, and its design will allow for the broadcast of ArlingtonWireless, private County wireless, and the private first responder wireless networks. This will provide internet access for park users and facilitate quicker response to large-scale emergency events.

#### Arlington Moves to Digital Scanner Voting Machines

Arlington began using new digital scanner voting



machines with the June 2015 Democratic primary. The new system uses a paper ballot that voters digitally scan into the ballot box.

The change is a "win-win for voters," as the state-of-the-art machines not only

#### *Voters using the new voting machines*

speed up the voting process, but also

provide secure back-ups of all ballots. Arlington previously used the digital scanners to supplement its electronic machines during the November 2012 Presidential election.

Now with the new machines, all voters receive a paper ballot to mark their selections. When complete, they insert the ballot into a digital scanner, which not only reads the ballot marking, but also saves a digital image of the ballot as well as the paper ballot itself. At the close of the polls, election officers run a tally of all votes cast on the scanner.

The new process also enables those with special needs to vote without assistance, should they so choose. Each polling place will have a ballot marking station that will allow either touch-screen or audio selection. Once the voter completes all selections, the station produces a paper ballot, which he or she can insert into the scanner for tallying along with all other voted ballots. Since 2007, Virginia law prohibits jurisdictions from purchasing electronic voting machines.



# ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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### Inclusion

#### Arlington Reads 2015—Inspiring Discussions of “#BlackLivesMatter

With the compelling theme of “#BlackLivesMatter: Two Remarkable Writers on Being Black in America,” Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Jesmyn Ward captured the mood of the country and attracted some of Arlington Reads largest crowds to date.

Adichie on May 7 addressed an audience of 280 readers at the Central Library auditorium while an additional 460 people watched a video feed of the program in two other locations in the building.



*Author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie*

The Nigerian author reflected on her life coming to America—the basis for her Arlington Reads featured novel, “*Americanah*,” her writing process and issues of race, gender and mental health. In just over five months, the Arlington TV video of Adichie’s Arlington appearance attracted 15,000 views in more than 125 nations around the world.

Featured non-fiction author Jesmyn Ward stressed the importance of dialogue both locally and nationally during two Arlington Reads 2015 appearances on April 8. Speaking first to students at Marymount University, Ward said “hope” was the key to confronting each new day despite the weight of the latest tragic headlines stemming from the issues of race and poverty she has written so much about in her writings. Addressing an evening standing-room only crowd at Central Library, Ward said she had at one point considered abandoning her writing for a career in nursing but found that the process of sharing her thoughts and stories helped her as much as it reached others.

#### Honoring Clarendon’s Vietnamese Community

The fall of Saigon, Vietnam, led to an influx of Vietnamese immigrants to the United States and Arlington. Many of those who settled in Arlington opened businesses in Clarendon, ranging from restaurants to grocery and variety stores, and found prosperity there from the mid-1970s into the 1980s. The area grew to become a vibrant immigrant and cultural community known both locally and abroad as “Little Saigon.”

As part of the 2015 Neighborhood Day celebration, the County honored Clarendon’s Vietnamese Community. The event provided an opportunity to understand and reflect on the contributions of the Vietnamese community to Arlington’s cultural heritage.

The program included a multimedia interactive public art installation by local Vietnamese immigrant and artist Khánh H. Lê, and the unveiling of a self-guided smartphone walking tour, created by Virginia Tech graduate student Judd Ullom, of sites associated with Clarendon’s Little Saigon history. Following the event, the artwork moved to the Center for Local History at Central Library. Other offerings featured hands on art activities, music, a County Board proclamation, special guest speakers and food from the Lemongrass Food Truck.



*Photo by Michael Horsley*

### Civic Engagement

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### **Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Announced**

In November, the County Manager announced the formation of Arlington's Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, the first of its kind in the region, to look for creative, effective ways to serve Arlington's active duty military population, veterans and their families.



*The USS Arlington at sea*

The committee will include representatives from the County, local military commands, the USS Arlington, the business community, local, regional and national service organizations and other stakeholders. Their charge is to identify, prioritize and implement programs and initiatives to recognize and support members of the Military and veterans.

Specifically, the committee will work to support and strengthen the relationship among the County, local active duty and civilian military commands, the local veteran community, County residents and the business communities. It will coordinate and utilize County and community resources in support of the local military community. The group also will develop, implement and maintain initiatives that provide opportunities to recognize and honor military members and their families.

In addition, its members will work with the USS Arlington Community Alliance to serve as the County Liaison with the ship and her crew; and serve as the chief County liaison for the Vietnam War Commemoration.

### **Reaching Out to Arlington's Mongolian Community**

Arlington's Mongolian community is one of the largest in the United States. In July, the County's Human Rights Commission hosted members of the County's Mongolian community to establish a link between its members and the County Government on issues of civil and human rights, including discrimination based on national origin and immigration and to share information on available resources.

The discussion addressed issues such as where residents should go should they have questions or concerns, and what to do if he/she feels discriminated against.

### **Library Classes Offered in Multiple Languages and Cover Multiple Subjects**

Arlington Public Library continued to expand its lifetime-learning

opportunities with dozens of events each month. In 2015, the Library offered language conversation sessions in Arabic, Chinese, English, Italian and Spanish;

technology training ranging from online job searching to exploring PowerPoint and Excel; new crafting sessions for adults; and lessons for young adults, covering such transitional experiences as home-buying and online dating.

The Library also had great success launching its first stand-up comedy classes, with four series of sessions in January, April, June and July. More than 300 would-be comics took part, with each series culminating with public performances.



*Participant in the Standup Comedy series*

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### **Civic Engagement**



## ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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#### Library Programs for Young People Stretching Beyond the Fundamentals



*Participants in Libraries Summer Reading program*

Through the years, Arlington Library, like others across the nation, has changed. However, the one constant is the role it plays in providing open and free access to information and ideas and encouraging a love of reading. This is most noticeable in the programs it provides for young readers, especially its annual summer reading activities and “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program.

**Summer Reading 2015:** For Arlington young people, Summer Reading has become a celebrated program and countywide tradition. With the theme of “Read to the Rhythm,” this year’s program included the first-ever official participation for adults, making the program accessible to the entire family. Just over 6,000 young people registered for the program along with about 400 adults.

For the second year, each family that registered for Summer Reading received a distinctive sky blue sign declaring their participation. The signs have become a common, welcoming sight on lawns throughout Arlington. Also this year, the Library expanded completion targets from the simple number of books read to a checklist of literary and library-related activities to try including discovering new authors, writing book reviews online and bringing friends to library events. Just over 2,000 children and adults participated.

For each completion, the Friends of the Arlington Public Library donated \$1 on the participant’s behalf to the Reading Connection, a charity that encourages reading for at-risk families. In addition, the Library served up 252 Summer Reading events for more than 24,000 attendees throughout the system. Themes ranged from teen open mic and music gaming to outdoor films and puppet theater.

**1,000 Books Before Kindergarten:** Arlington Public Library’s “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” pre-kindergarten literacy initiative celebrated its third year in March, continuing to encourage all Arlington families and caregivers to start reading aloud to their children from birth to help strengthen language skills and build vocabulary – two important tools for beginning to learn to read when they enter kindergarten.

Some 1,800 children have now registered for “1KB4K” with 70 reaching their goal. While 1,798 of the registered children live in primarily English-speaking homes, 280 are in homes most familiar with Spanish, 37 with Amharic, 35 with Arabic and 15 with Mongolian. Other main languages in participant homes: Farsi, Thai, Greek, Ukrainian and Cambodian.

Each child who completes the “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” goal is enshrined in the Library’s online 1KB4K Hall of Fame.



*Preschool story time at Arlington Library*

# ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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### Special Events

Arlington continues to build community through special events. Permitted special events increased to more than 215 in 2015. Here is a sampling:

**Safety and Community Awareness Event:** In July the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Policing Team organized the Arlington County Police Department Safety and Community Awareness Event at Kenmore Middle School. The event brought together state and local government agencies, local and international businesses, and community groups. It also attracted citizens from across the community and provided them an opportunity to engage with law enforcement officers and leaders.

The event offered attendees several services including VIN Etching, which is a security measure to deter auto theft, a distracted driving course to enhance education and awareness about driving under the influence, bicycle registration, training regarding fraud and identity theft, and a mini-citizens' academy involving scenario based training called "15 Minutes behind the Badge." Other activities included a moon bounce, face painting and a K-9 demonstration.

**Arlington County Fair:** The Arlington County Fair is one of the largest free events on the east coast. It has been providing quality entertainment for more than 35 years. Attendees of all ages each year enjoy competitive exhibits, midway rides and games, entertainment, vendors, and more. The 2015 fair opened with a new tradition—an Opening Day Parade, but continued to celebrate all things Arlington. It also featured time-honored favorites such as pig races, local performers, and



carnival foods, rides and games. Other offerings included outdoor movie nights, sports programming, and the Arlington County Fair 5K Run/Walk.

**The Rosslyn Jazz Festival:** The Rosslyn Jazz Festival, an annual free music celebration in Gateway Park, marked its 25th anniversary in September. The event featured locally, nationally and internationally acclaimed artists including Funk/Afrobeat ensemble The Funk Ark, internationally acclaimed Sonny Knight & The Lakers, Ethiopian pop music inspired Debo Band, and The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, a group featured on the HBO series Treme.



#### ***The Debo Band performed at the Jazz Festival***

This year's festival kicked off with a VIP event that attracted nearly 300 business leaders, government officials, local arts leaders and members of the public to a multicultural celebration highlighting business and the arts. Renowned Mexican band Troker was the featured performer.

**Columbia Pike Pop-up Gallery:** Arlington photographers have been documenting the Columbia Pike neighborhood's evolution for nearly a decade. In October, a month-long exhibit that launched as part of a Pop-up Gallery at Arlington Mill Community Center displayed their work. Utilizing images from the recently published book, *Living Diversity*, photographers Lloyd Wolf, Aleksandra Lagkueva, Mimi Xang Ho, Paula Endo and Duy Tran (working as The Columbia Pike Documentary Project) allowed the viewer experience the spirit of the Pike. The exhibit featured 50 portraits of life on Columbia Pike.



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*Participants at Arlington's First Development Forum*

**First Arlington Development Forum Held:** Arlington held its first Development Forum in September. The event provided an opportunity to update the public on what the County is doing to improve the business process for land-use planning and permitting. It attracted a crowd of a150 people, representing the business community, developers, non-profit organizations, civic associations and residents interested in the development of their community.

Attendees gave the event high marks and offered positive feedback afterward regarding the speakers and the topics discussed. According to a survey, a majority deemed the event as helpful, valuable and the presented information was easy to understand.

They also responded that they were pleased that the County was listening to their concerns, and taking action to improve the site plan review and permitting processes. They also made suggestions for future forum topics such as a report on the progress of the County's business improvement goals, and information on zoning updates.

**Marine Corps Marathon:** The 40th Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) and the MCM10K took place on Sunday, October 25, and attracted thousands of athletes and their friends and families.

The event included a full weekend of activities from a Health and Fitness Expo and a Healthy Kids Fun Run at the Pentagon. Also, as runners crossed the finish line they had the option of celebrating at

the MCM Finish Festival in Rosslyn where they could visit the Brooks Finisher Store, take advantage of a free post-race massage, food and beverage samplings, or refuel at Rosslyn's Restaurant Row. There was also the Crystal City Family Festival, which featured face painting, moon bounces, balloon animals, circus activities and more.

#### *July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration at Long Bridge Park*

Arlington's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Independence Day Celebration attracted more than 10,000 guests. The free event offered a family-friendly environment in Arlington to watch the Washington D.C. fireworks display.

Event highlights included food trucks, live music, games and social sports for all ages. Performers included local deejay DJ Freedom, Arlington-based Ebony Day Dance Company, and the popular cover band FortheWin.



*Friends enjoying the festivities at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration at Long Bridge Park*

Other special events that took place in Arlington in 2015 included the Festival Latino Americano, Clarendon-Courthouse Mardi Gras Parade and the Israel Street Festival.

The County updated its special event policy in 2014. The primary changes included amendment of the definition of "Special Event" to include organized events, pub-crawls and social gatherings and inclusion of text that addresses use and impact of public space.

# ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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### PUBLIC SAFETY

*Arlington's four public safety agencies (Fire, Police, Office of Emergency Management and the Sheriff's Office) are critical functions of County government and share the common goal of keeping the community safe. This is most notable in the County's low crime rate, the Fire Department taking a proactive approach to providing services and the Office of Emergency Management leading the effort to prepare all who work, live or visit Arlington to respond to emergencies. In addition, the Sheriff's Office is highly regarded for its progressive community programs such as its Incarcerated Mothers Holiday Program, which allows mothers in the detention facility to celebrate the holidays with their minor children.*

#### Arlington's Crime Rate Lowest Since 1961

County Police reported in March that Arlington's overall crime rate decreased by 8.22 percent in 2014 from 2013 for the County's lowest rate since 1961. The trend is proof of the effectiveness of the partnership between the Police Department and the people they serve and protect.

According to crime data collected by the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), the grand total of Part I offenses (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft) in the County was 3,863 in 2014, down from 4,209 in 2013. Additionally, the Police Department received 89,426 calls for service during the calendar year.

Following current national trends, part one offenses declined in Arlington County as well. Robberies decreased by 12.7 percent from 2013, with 110 reported incidents. The number of burglaries declined, falling from 240 cases in the previous year to 206, a 14.17 percent drop. The largest decrease in part I offenses were the cases of aggravated assaults, down 19.43 percent.

Larcenies and motor vehicle thefts both experienced a little over 7 percent decreases. There was one homicide in Arlington in 2014, a result of a domestic-related incident. However, Arlington experienced an increase in the number of rapes during the reporting period, from 26 in 2013 to 27 in 2014, a 3.85 percent rise. Even with crime rates at historic lows, the Arlington County Police Department remains focused on crime reduction and keeping Arlington's neighborhoods safe.



#### County Marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month with Purple Ribbons



In observance of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Police Department joined with a number of County agencies and Doorways for Women and Families to bring attention to the cause. The collaboration was the outgrowth of the belief held by Police that eliminating domestic violence requires collaborative prevention and response efforts.

In 2014, Doorways Domestic Violence Safe house provided emergency shelter to 45 adults and 41 children escaping violence.

During the month of October, Police officers displayed purple ribbon, donated by Doorways, on many Arlington Police vehicles in support of the efforts to reduce the incidence and severity of domestic violence in the community.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the "Day of Unity" held in 1981. The intent was to connect advocates across the nation working to end violence against women and children. The Day of Unity soon became an entire week devoted to a range of activities conducted at the local, state and national level.

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#### Parking Ticket Appeal Process Modified

The County Board adopted a change to the County's Motor Vehicles and Traffic Ordinance in March that allowed for streamlining the process for appealing certain parking tickets.

Specifically, the Board expanded the County Manager's authority to designate who can revoke parking citations. Before, for cars cited for expired safety inspections, registrations or personal property decals, the owners had to pay a fine or go to court to appeal the ticket. To arrange for a court date, he or she would have to submit an affidavit within 30 days of issuance of the ticket. The court date would be set for six to eight months afterward.

In contrast, if a uniformed officer stopped the vehicle for any of the same violations, the driver had the option of appearing in the General District Court, generally within two months. He or she also could show compliance before the court date by appearing in person at the office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, with the possibility of dismissal of the charges and fines, as well as the need to appear in court. Now all violators use the process similar to the one available to drivers who receive tickets from police officers, which saves time and eliminates the inconvenience of having to go to court to resolve citations for minor parking violations.

#### Police Launch "Coffee with a Cop" Program

Building relationships with the community is a key component of policing in Arlington, and in 2015, the Department launched the "Coffee with a Cop" program.



*Coffee with a Cop in action*

The low-pressure events have no formal agendas or speeches. They provide a chance for the

Community members to ask questions, voice concerns, provide positive feedback and get to know the officers in the neighborhoods. Since its inception, the events have provided two-way conversations and opened lines of communication for the community to the Department. Past events have been successful in bridging relationships with the community and the Police Department.

#### Change in Sheriff Office Custody Policy Announced



*Arlington Deputy Sheriffs*

The Arlington County Sheriff's Office in January announced that it would no longer hold people in custody at the County Detention Facility based solely on a request to detain by the federal Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) unless ICE presents the Sheriff with a judicially issued warrant authorizing such detention.

This change in policy is a result of a question from Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle to Attorney General Herring. In response to that question, on January 5, 2015, Attorney General Mark Herring issued an Advisory Opinion regarding the authority for law enforcement to hold a person in custody based on an Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detainer. Attorney General Herring stated:

*"It is my opinion that an ICE detainer is merely a request. It does not create for a law enforcement agency either an obligation or legal authority to maintain custody of a prisoner who is otherwise eligible for immediate release from local or state custody."*



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#### County Extends Arrangement with Falls Church for Public Safety and Court Services

Arlington County has provided court and public safety services to the neighboring City of Falls Church for years. Now with the County Board's October approval of a new Judicial and Public Safety Services agreement with the City, the arrangement will last indefinitely. It also means the County receives compensation from Falls Church and in return, the city does not have to operate separate court system or build its own jail.

The activities covered under the agreement include shared services related to the District and Circuit Courts, the Juvenile Domestic Relations Court, the Commonwealth Attorney, Community Corrections programs, the Alcohol Safety Action program, and the Emergency Communications Center. The City of Falls Church will pay Arlington \$1,029,070 in Fiscal Year 2016 for these services.

Arlington built its jail facility more than 20 years ago. The County owns the facility, with the Arlington County Sheriff Office responsible for its operation.

Since the 1990s, Arlington County and the City of Falls Church have observed a contract for confinement of the City's offenders in the detention facility. Falls Church will pay \$600,000 in Fiscal Year 2016 for these services.



*Arlington Justice Center*

#### Task Force Established to Help Decide Fire Station #8 Siting



In September, the County Board accepted a recommendation from the County Manager to form a task force to help determine how best to move forward with a future location for Fire Station No. 8.

A month later, the Board approved the task force's charge. It calls for the group to review viable sites for placing an upgraded and expanded Fire Station #8, including its current location at Lee Highway and North Culpepper Street and identify potential sites that meet the Fire Department's operational criteria. Those standards include improving fire/EMS response times; a location(s) that does not adversely affect response elsewhere in the County; a site able to accommodate a three or four-bay station with drive-through access and parking for 12 personal vehicles, and a site on, or in close proximity to, an arterial street.

The charge also directs the group to balance service needs with operating and capital costs, and recommend a site based on the consensus of the Task Force membership; if the group cannot reach a consensus, provide two-three sites with justifications for each. The proposed timeline calls for the Task Force to report to the Board by mid-March 2016.

The group's membership will include a chair, members of affected civic associations, neighbors of other fire stations, and representatives from the Arlington Civic Federation, Planning Commission, the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission and the Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee.

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#### Operation Firesafe- Keeping Arlington Safe and Alarmed

Arlington had three massive house fires in 2015 that resulted in five people losing their lives. In follow-ups, the department found that many of the neighboring homes lacked smoke detectors or the devices were not operational. In response, the department initiated *Operation Firesafe* with the goal of reducing the number of civilian fire fatalities and injuries by ensuring all Arlington residents have working smoke alarms.

*Operation Firesafe* involves on-duty firefighters going door to door in residential neighborhoods, targeting single-family homes and townhouses, on Saturdays. Firefighters offer free smoke alarm checks, installations and home fire safety checks. It also provides firefighters an opportunity to interact directly with the public in non-emergency situations. Previously the department installed smoke alarms on request but few homeowners took advantage of the offer.

Since the program began, firefighters have contacted 5,827 homes, which is almost 15 percent of Arlington's estimated 39,500 single-family homes and townhouses and have installed 865 smoke alarms and 174 batteries in 568 homes. Of the homes visited, 232 had no working smoke alarms.

Firefighters were able to check the smoke alarms in 1,263 homes and confirm they were working, and left 3,713 door hangers with information about the program and smoke alarms in homes where no one answered. However, the residents of 283 homes declined service for a variety of reasons.



*Firefighters on Firesafe detail*

#### Advanced Provider Paramedic Program Taking Emergency Care to New Levels

The Arlington Fire Department in recent years has been using a new model in providing emergency medical services called the Advanced Provider Paramedic (APP). The program frees County medic units to be more available for emergency calls that require a higher level of care for patients, rather than for callers needing less intensive service.

Paramedics in the program receive additional training that equip them with the specialized skills needed to work with and educate patients on the most appropriate methods for receiving medical aid. For example, if they respond to a call involving a patient not needing emergency transport by a medic unit, the paramedic will work with the patient to find a solution for receiving assistance such as transport by a non-emergency private ambulance, a taxi or private vehicle.

The Fire Department has found that the APP program has resulted in improved job satisfaction for County paramedics, more appropriate patient dispositions and a more effective working relationship with its County partners including the Department of Human Services, Arlington Public Schools and the Police Department.

It has also allowed the department to reduce the amount of time medic units spend on calls and allows for the treatment of more people without adding additional units. It also has reduced the number of calls from frequent users, especially among individual callers who before the start of the program had a history of calling 911 for service more than once a month.



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#### **Fire Department Uses Social Media to Increase Engagement**

Since 2014, the Fire Department has worked to increase their engagement in the community with a large focus on social media.

By raising their social media presence using Twitter and Facebook, the department has increased its interaction with the community. In addition to posting information about significant emergency incidents, the department shares information about community events, demonstrations, fire safety information and other fire department activities.

The department has found Twitter to have the greatest amount of activity from the community and serves as an efficient avenue to disseminate information to local news outlets. At the start of the initiative, the department's twitter account had 1,200 followers. Since, then its number of followers has more than double and now stands at over 3,100. The department also held a first contest on Twitter to encourage kids to learn about fire safety and create posters.

Social media has allowed the fire department to answer citizen's questions, pass on the words of appreciation from citizens to the firefighters on that specific incident, increase outreach during the recruitment process and share fire safety information. Interestingly, it has found the tweets with the most engagement address non-emergency incidents.

#### **Office of Emergency Management Leading the County in Preparedness Training**

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) leads the County's emergency preparedness activities. In 2015, this featured providing Active Shooter Preparedness presentations for the community. Recipients include County agencies and the Arlington Office of the Department of Homeland Security, Marymount University, U.S. Navy Office of Naval Research, Promontory Inter-Financial Network Group and more.



*Office of Emergency Management training*

OEM also conducted tabletop exercises and active shooter (RUN-HIDE-FIGHT drills) for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and Vornado Properties.

OEM staff members have assisted the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) Office of Emergency Management with the planning and creation of their emergency response and evacuation plans for all regional Metrorail Stations as a member of the WMATA Emergency Response and Evacuation Leadership Committee.

During the first half of 2015, the office completed a review of the County's Water Distribution System Vulnerability Assessment Plan, and is currently evaluating the County's Water Pollution Control Plant and waste pumping stations vulnerability security plan and the associated assessment report.

OEM continued its work with the Department of Homeland Security, the police department and federal law enforcement agencies to develop a curriculum to teach advanced surveillance training to police uniform and non-uniform personnel to detect suspicious activity to prevent and disrupt terrorist activities.

Finally, OEM continued conducting community outreach efforts to include the "Back of the Bus" campaign with over 900,000 impressions per month, and multiple emergency preparedness presentations to business, civic, and faith based organizations.

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#### **Faith-Based Preparedness and Mitigation Program Underway**

The role of faith-based organizations in Arlington is something that the County values tremendously, especially during the time of need and emergency. Recognizing this, throughout the second quarter of 2015, the Arlington Office of Emergency Management reached out to Arlington's 82 Faith Based Organizations (FBO) to learn how to better support them.

Staff contacted the organizations to establish relationships and build a contact database. This included conducting capacity surveys, providing safety and preparedness best practices information, staffing events and familiarizing them of the resources available through the County. OEM provided the contact database and location maps to the Arlington Police Department for use in their new "Personal Safety in a House of Worship" program.

Additionally, in May the Office of Emergency Management held its first Places-of-Worship Recovery Resource trainings that attracted representatives from 19 FBOS, non-government organizations, other local jurisdictions and first responders. Arlington received funding for the program from a grant from the Department of Homeland Security/ Urban Areas Security Initiative, Nonprofit Security Grant Program to conduct four Places-of-Worship Recovery Resource Trainings throughout the National Capital Area.

The County designed the program to create a shared understanding of the role local faith-based organizations (FBOs) play in emergency mitigation, recovery and response; capacities necessary and potential expectations within neighborhoods and congregations to help mitigate the effects of a disastrous event; and viable strategies and planning techniques to strengthen capacities and safety.

The second training will take place in Prince William County in partnership with Volunteer Prince William on February 2, 2016. The third and

fourth will be Safe Worship and Usher Safety Trainings for the Catholic Diocese of Arlington and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington. Both trainings are being developed and scheduled.



*Emergency Management staff providing information*

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### CAPITAL PROGRAM

*Arlington's capital program consists of some of the County's most visible projects such as construction or renovation of facilities and transportation improvements, all of which are long-term investments in Arlington's infrastructure. In 2015, the program realized a number of notable achievements such as completion of the County's first comprehensive homeless center, transportation projects that advanced the quality of County streets, and the acquisition of property to expand the County's parkland. In addition, a number of neighborhood conservation projects received funding.*

#### Homeless Services Center Completed

The highlight of the County's Capital Program in 2015 was the completion of the renovation of the Thomas Building, at 2020 14th St. N., for the County's Homeless Services Center.



**Main reception area of the Homeless Services Center**

The renovation included modifications to three floors of the existing seven-floor structure, installation of two elevators and a stairway that provides egress to meet occupancy requirements for the new dormitory. It also involved construction of a dayroom, sitting room, classrooms, sleeping areas and a commercial kitchen.

Other added features included bathrooms and showers, computer network services and new security devices.

The County purchased the seven-story building in 2012 for \$27 million, with an addition \$9.679 million for the center's construction. The Center officially opened to clients on October 3.

*To learn more about the available services, see the Social Safety Net Section.*

#### Sequoia Plaza Now Home to Arlington Human Services Programs

The consolidation of the County's Department of Human Services programs at Sequoia Plaza, 2100 Washington Blvd., required the partial renovation of two buildings and a total overhaul of another to accommodate the staff and programs from the 1810 Edison Complex, Drewry Center, Clarendon House and the Fenwick facilities.

The project included the build out of offices, conference rooms, outpatient and quarantine clinical offices, laboratory, medical closets, waiting areas for patients/clients, an x-ray room, and staff office areas. The renovation provided 73,554 square feet of interior space for the department, a reduction from the combined 92,900 square feet occupied in the five older buildings.

The action saved the County an estimated \$7 million in capital improvement costs for the former sites and freed up the property for other strategic land use options for the community moving forward.

*To learn more about the services moved to Sequoia, see the Social Safety Net Section.*



**Sequoia Plaza from above**

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#### Transportation Projects Create a Safer, Welcoming Environment

Throughout 2015, the County worked on a number of transportation improvement projects to create a safer and more welcoming environment for all who walk, bike or drive in Arlington. Highlights of the effort include:

**Ballston Street Safety Upgrades:** The County and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) have substantially completed safety improvements to three major intersections along North Glebe Road in Ballston area and the intersection of Fairfax Drive and Wakefield Street.



*Glebe Road & Fairfax Drive North West corner -Before*

Federal and state funds covered 80 percent of the \$3.52 million cost with Arlington providing a 20 percent local match. Some of the improvements made were updated sidewalks and ramps, shortened distances for pedestrian crossings, wider center refuge medians, enhancements to on-street bike lanes, new signage and striping, upgraded traffic signals and street lighting and improvements to intersection geometry.



*Glebe Road & Fairfax Drive North west corner-after*

**South Eads Street:** After an extensive public outreach to solicit public input on the future design of South Eads Street, Arlington installed a new cross-section design as a pilot project along South Eads Street between 15th Street South and 23rd Street South. The pilot included a road diet, or reduction of travel lanes, from five to three and the addition of protected bike lanes. The County is monitoring the pilot program to judge its impact and help shape the future design of the South Eads Street Streetscape project.



*Protected bike lanes on South Eads Street*

**Columbia Pike Utility Undergrounding & Street Improvements:** A portion of Columbia Pike, from South Wakefield Street to Four Mile Run, received streetscape improvements as part of the Columbia Pike Multimodal Project. The enhancements included wider sidewalks, new streetlights, upgraded traffic signals, street trees and bus shelters. In addition, the County replaced aging and leak-prone water and sewer pipes and buried existing overhead utilities underground.

**South Courthouse Road Complete Streets, Intersection Improvements:** The section of South Courthouse Road from 4th Street to Columbia Pike received complete streets and intersection improvements including upgraded and ADA (American Disability Act) compliant accessible curb ramps for pedestrians, sidewalk curb extensions, bus stop relocations and facility improvements, minor drainage adjustments, paving, bike lanes and safer marked crossings.



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#### **Contract Approved for Crystal City ART Bus Facility**

The County Board in May awarded a \$12.4 million contract to The W.M. Schlosser Company, Inc. to build a new Arlington Transit (ART) bus facility in Crystal City, at South Eads and 32nd Streets. The two-story complex, long planned for in the County's Capital Improvement Plan, will contain bays for light-duty maintenance and bus washing, room for parking and a compressed natural gas fueling station.

Building a County-owned complex will provide more flexibility for how ART fuels and maintains its vehicles. Currently, the County has a contract with the adjacent Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority facility for washing and fueling the vehicles at a high cost and with restricted hours of service.

Since the compound will be located on the edge of Crystal City and several established neighborhoods, the project includes upgrading the surrounding streetscape, on South Eads Street and Jefferson Davis Highway, to improve the facility's functionality and appearance.

The total budget for the project and surrounding streetscape improvements is \$17.6 million, which includes design, construction, construction management and related costs. Funding for the project comes from a combination of state and regional funds and local commercial real estate tax revenues that are restricted to transportation projects. Construction started in September 2015.



*Construction began on the new ART facility in September*

#### **Restoration of the Dawson Terrace Bailey House, Recreation Center Underway**

The County hired a historic structural engineer to complete a physical evaluation of the County's Dawson Terrace Bailey House and Community Center and to provide recommendations for comprehensive structural stabilization and restoration work for the building.



*Flooring structural repairs at Dawson Terrace Bailey House*

Following the engineer's recommendations, the County began work on the Bailey House during the summer, which involved stabilizing the stone foundation, repairing the roof, floors and the structural stone shell, replacing the heating and air conditioning system, and installing a lightning protection system.

All of the renovation conforms to national preservation practices as stated in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and the County is working to minimize any damage to the historic fabric of the building while following both historic techniques and best contemporary practices. Collaborating with local experts, the County's goal for the project is to preserve the building's significant historic characteristics. County staff expects the completion of the project by winter of 2016.

The Dawson Terrace Community Center is also receiving HVAC modernization, new roof, exterior siding repair and select replacement, as well as interior paint and flooring.



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#### New Neighborhood Conservation Projects Funded



This year, the County Board approved more than \$5.5 million in funding for nine new Neighborhood Conservation projects. The projects, detailed below, provide street improvements that deliver much needed safety enhancements. In addition, several of the projects

include bio-retention facilities to treat stormwater.

***Columbia Heights Pedestrian Safety Project*** that will add curb extensions, sidewalks and accessible ramps from South Courthouse Road from Columbia Pike to 12th Street South.

***Waycroft-Woodlawn Pedestrian Safety Project*** that will add corner nub extensions, accessible ramps and filling in a missing sidewalk from North Evergreen Street from 11th Street North to Washington Boulevard, 11th Street North from George Mason Drive to North Buchanan Street.

***Oak Grove Park Improvement Project*** in Cherrydale that will renovate the existing tot lot and playground, replace the gazebo and provide ADA-accessible site furnishings and a rain garden.

***Douglas Park Streetlight Project*** that will provide LED Carlyle-style streetlights along 12th Street South from South Monroe Street to South Quincy Street.

***Madison Manor Streetlight Project*** that will provide LED Carlyle Street lights along 12th Street North from 11th Road North to North Roosevelt Street. All of the projects originated from neighborhood suggestions endorsed by civic associations, reviewed by staff and evaluated by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee.

***Ashton Heights Street Improvement Project*** on North Oakland Street, from North Pershing Drive to Route 50.

***Lyon Village Street Improvement Project*** on 13th Street North from Kirkwood Road to North Jackson/North Johnson Street.

***Arlington Ridge Street Improvement Project*** on 23rd Street South from South Nash Street to Army Navy Drive.

***Leeway Street Improvement Project*** on 22nd Street North from North Kentucky Street to North Lexington Street.

Arlington created the Neighborhood Conservation Program in 1964 to improve residential areas by funding neighborhood projects suggested by residents. Residents submit project proposals to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) for consideration and selection for consideration by the County Board for funding.

#### Quincy Street Property Acquisition-Largest Land Purchase Since 2011

In May, the County Board approved a \$30 million option agreement to buy a three-parcel, six-acre site on North Quincy Street, between 1-66 and North 14th Street. The Board also approved the first-payment (\$1.2 million) on the option. In June, it also earmarked \$900,000 from parking meter revenue toward a future payment.

Under the terms of the agreement, the County has until November 20, 2017, to exercise its option to buy the property. If the County goes through with the purchase, it would be its largest land purchase since October 2011 when it acquired 7.1 acres in Crystal City that became part of Long Bridge Park.

The County has not identified specific plans for the parcel; although due to most of the site's zoning for light industrial use, it may be appropriate for many County or Arlington Public Schools' facilities or open space needs.

## ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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#### Over \$4 Million Approved for Park, Playground Projects

Contracts totaling nearly \$4.4 million in park and playground capital projects won County Board approval during 2015. The projects range from replacement of a synthetic turf field to constructing a new play area for preschoolers.

In January, the Board approved a \$596,350 contract to renovate the asphalt parking lot and basketball court at Gunston Park. The work also includes installation of a bio-retention facility to manage storm water runoff, and replacement of the outdoor lights with “dark sky” technology to save energy and reduce light pollution. The facility also received milling and asphalt resurfacing, curb and gutter repairs, striping, signs, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements, grading and drainage improvements, site furnishings and landscaping. The County used funding from the Park Maintenance Capital Program to cover the cost of the renovations.

Replacement of the Washington-Lee High School synthetic turf received approval in April with the Board authorizing a \$609,671 contract award to GTR Turf, Inc. for the work. The field, accommodating multiple uses, features lines for a variety of sports and the turf is a blend of monofilament, slit film fibers, with a sand and crumb rubber infill that the County has used for the past 10 years. The field is under-laid with a shock-absorbing pad known to reduce the number and severity of concussions.



*New turf field at Washington-Lee High School*

In June, the Board approved contracts to build a play area at Long Bridge Park and renovate the playground at Tyrol Hills Park. FHP Tectonics Corporation received a \$992,000 contract to install playgrounds on three small lawn areas at the south end of Long Bridge Park between 6th Street South and the soccer fields. The playgrounds, for children age 2 to 12 year, completes the southern portion of the park with a family-friendly amenity.



*Tyrol Hills playground before construction*

The Board voted unanimously to award a \$710,520 contract to Sumter Construction to reconstruct the playground at Tyrol Hills Park. This is a Neighborhood Conservation project.

The Avon Corporation in September received a \$376,345 contract to construct a new play area for preschoolers at Butler Holmes Park. The area will feature safe play surfaces, a new park staircase and walkway, picnic tables and grills and signage. This Neighborhood Conservation project also will offer popular tot lot features such as a basket swing, seesaw and fairy tale structure.

Finally, in December, staff received authorization from the Board to award a \$1,063,288.98 contract to the Bennett Group for improvements to Tuckahoe Park’s two athletic fields. The project includes installing new sod, irrigation, site circulation, fencing, backstops, installation of scoreboard, dugouts, bleachers, picnic tables, a drinking fountain, a bio-retention area for drainage, ADA accessibility improvements and landscaping. A new electronic scoreboard is in the works thanks to a donation from Bishop O’Connell High School.

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#### Reevesland –A Decision Reached

The County purchased Reevesland, located at 400 N. Manchester St., in 2001 for \$1.8 million to expand Bluemont Park. The parcel and farmhouse is the remnant of Arlington's last operating dairy farm. In 2004, the County Board designated the entire 2.4-acre site as the Reevesland Local Historic District.

County officials worked with the community for six years to find a way to retain public ownership of the house or to create a public-private partnership to restore the house and open it to the public. However, the partnership never developed and with the cost of restoring the property and renovating it for public use prohibitively expensive, the County decided to pursue the sale of the property.

Specifically, the Board in May directed the County Manager to seek re-subdivision of the 2.4-acre property and create a lot that will include the 19th century farmhouse. The Board also directed the Manager to market the house to a buyer who would be required to preserve its historic integrity.

Five months later, the Board voted to approve a use permit for a Unified Residential Development (URD) to create a separate parcel for the Reeves Farmhouse and to approve a use permit for a Public Park for open space. The creation of a separate lot that includes the farmhouse allows the County to market the house for sale to a private buyer willing to restore and maintain it. It also gives a potential owner privacy and the flexibility to expand the house with oversight by the county's Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board.

Both parcels will remain under a County historic district, so all exterior changes are subject to review by the Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board. The house lot will have an additional historic easement recorded on it before marketed for sale

The County will retain ownership of the rest of the property. The County Board directed the County Manager not to record the subdivision plat until

instructed to do so. By holding off on the recording of the plat, the County can entertain the proposal from the newly formed Reevesland Conservation Society, Inc. The County has up to three years after approval to record the plat.



*Reevesland Farmhouse*

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### COUNTY & SCHOOL COLLABORATION

*Although Arlington County Government and Arlington County Schools are separate entities, they share the common goal of providing Arlington students a quality education in an environment in which they can thrive. In 2015 for example, the County's adopted Fiscal Year 2016 budget included \$451.6 million for schools, up from the previous year. Further, the County Board approved expansion of the 1950s era Abingdon Elementary school to accommodate growing enrollment in the area, and in conjunction with the Arlington Public School Boards, launched the joint Community Facilities Study to investigate a new process for locating major County and Schools capital projects.*

#### Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Reflects Increased Funding for Schools

One of the major considerations of the County's annual budget process is meeting the needs of Arlington Public Schools (APS) to accommodate a continuing increase in student enrollment, and the need to expand, renovate or replace aging schools, or build new ones.

In response, the County's adopted Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 budget included \$451.6 million in ongoing funding for Schools, a 4.5 percent over the FY 2015. This represents, Arlington taxpayers providing educational funding of \$18,588 per Arlington student. The allocation was in line with the Revenue Sharing Principles adopted by the County Board and School Board in January. Since 2001, the County and Schools have followed a revenue sharing agreement that provides a transparent, predictable and flexible framework for budget development for both the County and Schools.

As part of the budget, the Board also approved the transfer of the Kids in Action programs from County operations to the Schools' Extended Day program. This streamlined program delivery and enhanced staff training opportunities. It also realized cost savings as staff predicted that the move would save \$123,000 the first year and \$160,000 annually going forward.

#### Expansion to Give New Life to Abingdon School

Abingdon Elementary School in the Fairlington neighborhood opened its doors in 1950. In

September, the County Board gave new life to the building with the approval of its renovation and expansion to accommodate its increasing enrollment. The Board approved two use permits, one for construction and expansion of the school, along with reduced on-site parking, and a second to allow secondary parking for school use at the nearby

Fairlington Villages Community Center.

The expansion will add 30,000 square feet to the school, 136 new seats, 12 new classrooms, a new gym, a new outdoor instructional area and a new entrance plaza, with direct access to the relocated main entrance. There also will be a new bus loop, and changes to the site's existing parking configuration. The proposed design also mitigates the impacts of expansion on a limited site area, and schools will provide extensive stormwater management at the site to minimize impact on neighboring properties.

The existing building also requires major building system upgrades, including electrical and plumbing systems and interior furnishings. The school has undergone three previous renovations or expansions in 1964, 1970 and 1990.



*Rendering of the expanded Abingdon Elementary School*



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#### WRAPS-- A Successful Collaboration for All



When the County Board adopted the Western Rosslyn Area Plan in July, it brought to

conclusion the successful collaborative planning effort known as the Western Rosslyn Area Plan Study (WRAPS). The process brought together a County-appointed working group, property owners, the County and Arlington Public Schools (APS) to determine how to best redevelop a key area of Rosslyn with a new fire station, a new school, a new Rosslyn Highlands Park and another small park space, mixed-use development and up to 250 units of affordable housing.

Through the study, the group developed a plan that addressed some of the County's highest priorities, including adding school capacity to ease overcrowding, and recommended building a new 775-seat secondary school on the Wilson School site. It also suggested building a new Fire Station #10, a new Rosslyn Highlands Park and another small public park space, mixed-use development, and increased affordable housing development.

APS plans to build the new school to house the H-B Woodlawn Secondary, the Stratford, English for Speakers of Other Languages/High Intensity Language Training (ESOL/HILT) and Asperger's programs now housed at the H-B Woodlawn/Stratford site on Vacation Lane by 2019. Prior to 2014, the Arlington County School Board had considered the Wilson School site as surplus real estate that it could possibly sale or lease.

The County launched WRAPS in 2014, parallel to the Realize Rosslyn Planning process that produced the proposed Rosslyn Sector Plan. The process included multiple working group meetings, a community workshop, joint County Board-School Board work sessions and a number of reviews by County advisory groups and commissions.

#### Safe Routes to Schools Projects Backed by Federal Grants

In January, the County Board accepted federal grant funds to design and build safe routes to school projects to improve access around Ashlawn and Discovery Elementary Schools and Williamsburg Middle School.

Transportation studies conducted by the Toole Design Group found that the construction of sidewalks and paths, or reconstruction of existing intersections could improve student access for both Ashlawn Elementary and Discovery Elementary School.



#### *Ashlawn Elementary School will benefit from Safe Route to School improvements*

The project includes the reconstruction of the intersection of sidewalks at 36th and Kensington Streets near Discovery Elementary School and Williamsburg Middle School. Plans also call for building trail and sidewalk additions in the Bluemont neighborhood to enhance walking paths to Ashlawn Elementary. The County will draw funds from the joint County and Schools contingency account to provide the grants' required \$100,000 match. The two boards established the fund to address infrastructure needs at joint facilities.

County staff will continue to identify Safe Routes to School projects in neighborhoods in need of street and sidewalk improvements. Generally, Arlington conducts transportation studies for one-to-two schools per year.

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### Preparing Schools for Emergencies

The County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) joined Arlington Public Schools in their assessment of the systems' Emergency Preparedness Programming. In doing so, OEM prepared an Emergency Preparedness Self-Assessment based on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1600 guidelines. The office also reviewed schools' Emergency Management Plans and Reference Book and conducted personal interviews.

### Arlington Alert

The areas examined during the process included leadership and commitment, program documentation, laws and authorities, finance and administration, records management, risk assessment and planning. The review also addressed communications and public information, training and education, exercises and tests and maintenance and improvement.

### Discussion of New School at TJ Site Comes Full Circle

In August 2014, the County Board asked the Thomas Jefferson Working Group to join with County staff to evaluate the feasibility of adding an elementary school to the Thomas Jefferson (TJ) site, located at Arlington Boulevard and South Old Glebe Road. The property currently includes TJ Middle School, TJ Community Center, a community garden and a park.

In January 2015, the group reported to the County Board that that while they generally agree it is possible to build the school at the site within specific guidelines; they stated however, they were divided on the issue of timing, specifically if the school should be built immediately. The County Board in response, voted to "not approve at this time" the Schools' request to build on the site. However, the Board said it would be willing to reconsider the request at any



*Thomas Jefferson Middle School Entrance*

time if they receive information from the school system regarding an analysis of County and or school sites needed to serve the projected south Arlington student growth, and information on any realistic strategies that could reduce the need for construction.

The Board also requested "a close to final" estimate of requested County funding to support a Jefferson Elementary School project, and agreed that it only would approve a school located on the northwest corner of the property with "structured parking, dedicated play areas, a multi-storied compact building footprint and adequate multi-modal traffic improvements achieved by the design." The Board further affirmed that TJ Park would remain dedicated to open space and recreational uses.

By the end of the year, the issue had come full circle with the County Board in December set to deliberate the School Board's final request to consider the Thomas Jefferson site for a new elementary school and initiate the Public Facilities Review Committee process.



*TJ Community Center entrance*

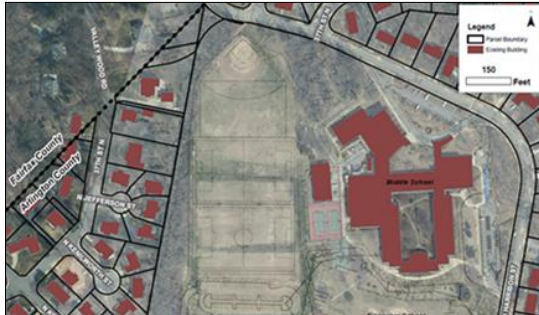
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#### Field Lights at Williamsburg Middle School Up for Review

The County Board appointed the Williamsburg Field Site Evaluation Work Group in July to lead a community process to determine whether to light the Williamsburg synthetic fields.



#### *Current view of Williamsburg Fields*

The genesis for the group originated during the County Board's deliberation of a use permit request for the new Discovery Elementary School on the Williamsburg Middle School campus in September 2013. During their discussion of the matter, the Board directed the County Manager to initiate a Williamsburg Field Site Evaluation Work Group.

The group is comprised of representatives from the Planning, Sports, Parks and Recreation commissions and the Environment and Energy Conservation Committee. It also includes members of the Rock Spring, Williamsburg and Yorktown civic associations, the Arlington Soccer Association, the Arlington Women's Soccer League, and Arlington Coed Kicks Soccer League and the Parent-Teacher Association. Residents who own property abutting or located across the street from the field are members as well.

The group will consider existing County policies including the Noise Ordinance, Zoning Ordinance, Public Spaces Master Plan and any other relevant policies during its study, and will present its report to the County Board at a work session in June 2016. The Board will review the Williamsburg Use Permit at the September 2016 County Board Meeting, where it will consider the option to add lights to Williamsburg's synthetic turf fields.

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### FITNESS & HEALTH

*Fitness and health is an ever-evolving arena. In Arlington, the transformation has moved away from exercising and maintaining or losing weight to healthy eating and physical activity for health and wellness. Even more so, through the development of FitArlington, Arlington has adopted a culture of fitness dedicated to creating a community in which being healthy and fit is a way of life for Arlingtonians of all ages and abilities. This ranges from offering fitness programs, including sports leagues, to increasing the County's walkability through sidewalk improvement projects.*

#### FitArlington Dedicated to a Culture of Fitness



The County's FitArlington initiative has grown from its initial goal of encouraging Arlington youth to be healthy and fit to

becoming the County's umbrella for programs aimed at developing a culture of fitness in Arlington for all ages.

It relies on a cadre of FitArlington partners who are committed to sharing resources and the program's vision of health and fitness. In 2015, the number of FitArlington partners grew by 49 organizations to 105. The growth was in part due to a new online application process.

One of the program's most popular endeavors is the FitArlington Healthy Vending project. By November 185 FitArlington Healthy Vending machines that meet new nutritional standards were located throughout the County from libraries and community centers to office buildings and schools. All of the machines that are accessible to children meet the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools Standards. The County received another two-year grant from the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth to promote the healthy vending initiative.



#### Fitness Programs Growing in Popularity, Participation

The County's fitness programs are growing in popularity with more and more residents participating in County sponsored programs. Consider the facts:

- The youth recreational basketball program continued to grow and remained Arlington's largest County-run youth sports program with more than 4,100 players.
- Counting both the fall and spring seasons, Arlington Soccer Association participation grew 19 percent from Fiscal Year 2013 to 2015. Teams increased from 593 to 640.
- Three Arlington soccer teams won the Virginia State Cup in 2015.
- The Arlington Youth Lacrosse Club continued steep growth, up 68 percent in two years to 557 players.
- Youth fencing is growing with 180 participants in 2015 up from 140 in 2014. It is a great sport for health and agility, it attracts teens that may not be interested in traditional sports and allows teens to compete with adults.
- The County began the Run with Rangers program that takes the form of community runs through various parks on foot with Arlington Park Rangers, getting to know the rangers as well as learning about various parks. The summer series consisted of six events with an average of five community members. The rangers are planning a new series for spring 2016.



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#### **Parks and Rec RX Getting People Moving**

Late 2014, Kaiser Permanente awarded \$14,750 to the County for a pilot “Arlington Parks and Rec Rx” program to increase the fitness level of Arlington residents by having medical professionals prescribe physical activity.

The County used the grant monies to build an online infrastructure that it launched with the Arlington Pediatric Center, which only serves children whose household incomes are below the poverty line. The program kicked-off in May, and through the first four months, people visited its online pages 126 times. By August 278 pages were opened with the most popular being those for the Arlington Mill Community Center and Barcroft Park.

#### **Arlington Named Best City for Staying Healthy**

For cities with populations of 100,000 to 500,000, Arlington took the top spot for Best Cities for Staying Healthy, according to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

Top cities in this area had residents who had healthy lifestyles as well as plenty of health care options. One reason AARP gave for Arlington’s rank was its access to exercise opportunities. In terms of overall livability, Arlington took the sixth spot for populations between 100,000 and 500,000.



*Winners of Arlington's Adult Flag Football League*

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### ADMINISTRATIVE ADVANCEMENTS

*Arlington's administrative functions are the unheralded backbone of County operations. They make sure the resources are in place for program staff to provide services or provide the information that residents need to fully take advantage of all Arlington has to offer. In 2015, the County made a number of advancements in the use of technology to share more news and information in different ways, expanded the in-building wireless system to enhance public safety efforts and implemented several upgrades at the Emergency Communications Center. Additionally, as part of the overarching theme of creating greater transparency, the County adopted its first-ever Whistleblower Policy and progress was made in records and information management.*

#### Survey Showed Residents Highly Satisfied with County Services

In May, the County Manager reported the results of the 2015 Resident Satisfaction Survey that showed residents are highly satisfied with County services with overall satisfaction at 89 percent.

Satisfaction with County services improved or stayed the same in 62 of the 101 questions asked in 2012 and 2014, and just 2 percent of residents were dissatisfied with the overall quality of County services. When compared to other communities its size, overall satisfaction with County services rated 32 percentage points above the national average. The data also showed residents are satisfied with the value they receive for their taxes; and are more satisfied with County schools, the quality of the County's transit system, libraries, sports programs and outdoor athletic fields.

The results revealed the top two areas of opportunity are the maintenance of County streets and management of traffic flow, the only areas with dissatisfaction levels above 20 percent, and ranked below the national average

The survey received responses from across the county. Renters accounted for nearly one-third of the respondents, and the demographics of the respondents were very similar to the most recent Census estimates. One in eight respondents does not speak English at home; 21 percent have lived in the County for five years or less, and 11 percent have lived here for two years or less.

#### Sharing More News and Information through New Methods

The County initiated even more ways to share news and information in 2015.



##### **Reporting The News:**

Communications staff began reporting original news articles on a variety of topics. Local media picked up a number of the items, sometimes verbatim. Popular topics included a retiring K9, how to handle panhandlers, and the Trooper Jacqueline Vernon Memorial Bridge dedication. Staff also increased the frequency of the

Arlington Insider e-newsletter distribution to weekly from every other week.

**Explaining County Board Actions:** Arlington TV launched "County Board Wrap-Up," a half-hour show featuring County Board Chair Mary Hynes discussing highlights from the recent Board Meeting and explaining the Board's action.

**Increasing Arlington's Digital Presence:** Of all the County communications channels, the fastest growing is in the realm of social media. This year, the County improved its engagement on the County's social media platforms and now has 8,600 "likes" on its main ArlingtonVA Facebook page and another 16,000 Twitter followers. Instagram is in the early rollout/growth stage. For example, through live social media coverage of the Homeless Services Center ribbon cutting, the County reached 2,500 people on Facebook and over 5,500 Twitter impressions.

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#### Arlington TV goes HD



Arlington TV (ATV) is in the last stage of completing its full conversion to high-definition (HD) TV, which is now the industry standard. ATV is now producing all of its

programming in that format; all cameras (in the County Boardroom, studio and remote cameras) are now HD. All programs, whether (live or taped), are edited and mastered in HD.

While neither of Arlington's cable operators pass through the public/educational/government channels in HD at this time, the viewer enjoys an improved experience with a higher quality image, whether they are watching on cable TV or online. This conversion was important, since it is no longer possible to replace or repair analog equipment. Comcast provided funding for the conversion as part of the cable franchise agreement.

#### Arlington Today Set to Take Off

At the end of 2015, a cross-departmental team unveiled *Arlington Today*, a mobile responsive website that provides a view of all consolidated Government sponsored activities, detailing the what, where, and when they are occurring.

The goal is to ensure that Arlington residents, visitors, workers and businesses receive information regarding County Government events affecting them; and have an opportunity to participate at their desired level of engagement.



From the site, residents can find directions to an event add it to their calendars, share details with others, and more.

#### In-Building Wireless System Expanded



**Firefighters training**

Due to modern building designs, typical first responder communications are at risk of obstruction within buildings. In collaboration with the Office of Emergency Management and the Emergency Call Center, the

Department of Technology Services has installed Distributed Antenna Systems at Sequoia and Arlington Mill Community Center. This allows first responders to have complete in-building communications during emergency and response situations.

Currently, there are more than 15 buildings (including the jail) that the County has identified as needing a DAS or an upgraded from the existing radio system to the new DAS architecture. This will also allow for remote monitoring and lower latency for future expansion of the radio system. The new DAS system will support not only voice, but also video and data for more interactive field response and capabilities.



**Sequoia Plaza now equipped with new DAS system**

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### Records and Information Management Policy Implemented

Records management is essential to good government. When done correctly, it demonstrates an organization's commitment to transparency, accountability and community involvement. Even more, effective records management practices can save money, create new efficiencies and help to inform future decisions.

In order to comply with the Virginia Public Records Act and to maximize the benefits of a strategic, streamlined records management process, the County has a new administrative regulation that will serve as the roadmap for its approach. Some of the key aspects of the policy that the County plan to implement include reduction or elimination of paper by scanning and converting records to electronic format; leveraging tools to require upfront identification, categorization and tagging of information; and preservation of and access to historical information through the County's online archives.

The transition will occur over time, with the overall goal of full Countywide implementation by 2020. This regulation is the first step in a process that will enable the County to reap the many benefits of effective record management.

### Woodmont Center Phased Out as Records Storage Site

For many years, the County has utilized the basement of the Woodmont Center for physical records storage. While the facility served a purpose for a period, it is not suitable to serve as an archival facility and the location is not ideal for staff access to records.

In order to provide for more efficient use of the space at the Woodmont Center and appropriate storage of critical records, the County made a strategic decision to enter into a contract with a third-party professional records storage vendor.

In September, the County completed the transfer of over 3,500 square feet of files. As part of the transfer, County staff indexed all boxes and they now have the ability to search an online database and request delivery of records (either electronic or physical) via the vendor's web portal. As a result, the County is able to provide access to information more efficiently and effectively, while repurposing valuable facility space and ensuring that County records are properly stored and secured.



*County records now safely stored*

### Implementation of New Capital Project Management System at Halfway Point

The County is currently at the halfway point of implementing a fully integrated cloud-based capital project management system that will help ensure cost-effective and timely delivery of the County's capital projects. Implementation of e-Builder will provide County staff tools for reducing risk, maintaining effective cost controls through the life of a project, and documenting approvals of scope, budget and schedule changes.

It also will serve as an efficient and accountable tool for change order management during construction, progress reports and will document successes and mistakes.

Specifically, e-Builder will provide one integrated system to manage the cost, schedule and scope of each project as it moves through the different phases. The system is modular, easy to use and engineered for phased deployment, allowing for effective change management and flexibility.



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#### Emergency Communications Center Updates

Arlington's Emergency Communications Center is responsible for receiving and processing 9-1-1 emergency and non-emergency calls and dispatching police, fire and emergency medical service units. During 2015, the Center:

- Completed a major upgrade of Arlington's Public Safety Radio System. This \$1.2M project progressed the County's radio system to current technology levels in line with other regional radio systems. It also provided the County reliable, secure communications capabilities for all first responders, public service workers and Arlington Public Schools officials. Additionally, it provides for interoperable emergency radio communications between Arlington's first responders and others in the region.
- Signed a contract with TeleCommunications Systems, Inc. to implement a Text-to-9-1-1 solution in Arlington. County staff projects that the deployment will occur by the end of January 2016.
- Added capability to view County traffic and other cameras in the center's roll call room for additional access and situational awareness during planned and spontaneous events.



*Inside the Emergency Communications Center*

#### Whistleblower Policy Adopted

In May, the County adopted a Whistleblower Policy to protect employees who file or report suspected financial fraud, waste or abuse of County resources or assets. The policy outlines the criteria that qualify employees for protections for making a complaint to the County's Fraud Waste and Abuse hotline or to other County employees. It also provides access to the County's grievance process for whistleblowers.



#### *County employees now enjoy Whistleblower protections*

To qualify for whistleblower protection, the employee must identify him or herself when making the complaint, the suspected abuse is or was significant and the employee filed a written complaint or to the hotline website or its assisted reporting system. The employee must also provide details that are capable of objective corroboration.

A review committee will determine whether the complaint meets the criteria of a report, and qualifies the employee for Whistleblower Protection status. This determination on Whistleblower Protection is final and is not subject to appeal.

Additionally, the County is providing expanded ethics training and creating an employee ethics resource center for questions and answers as well as conducting an awareness campaign. In the future, the County also will review the County Code of Ethics and the Gift Policy to ensure that employee obligations are clear and understandable.

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#### Library Program Provides Parents Curated Book Recommendations



In 2015, the Library teamed with the Arlington-based company Zoobean to offer curated children's book recommendations to parents via email and an app. The program, called Beanstack, takes the preferences and reading level of each child and, working with a database of Arlington librarian recommendations from the Library catalog, generates customized weekly suggestions of new titles to explore with the family.

Arlington became only the second library system in the country to offer Beanstack service. More than 300 families took advantage in the first six months with 3,000 visits to the Library's dedicated Beanstack service page.

#### HealthSmart Wellness Clinic Pays for Itself

The County's HealthSmart Wellness Clinic offers convenient access to healthcare services at no cost to employees. Its onsite care supplements regular physician visits and is a part of Arlington's commitment to employee wellness. Clinic services are available to all benefits-eligible County employees. In 2015, employee's use of the HealthSmart Wellness Clinic increased by 30 percent and the clinic expenses of \$233,333 was an estimated savings of \$497,722 in paid leave for employees for offsite medical appointments, combined with the cost of the appointments.



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### ACCOLADES & HONORS

*Like all organizations, the County values feedback from its constituents, customers, clients, employees, external organizations and its jurisdictional associates. When that feedback comes in the form of accolades, honors or awards, it serves to validate that the County's efforts to provide effective, quality service is making an impression and adding to Arlington's credibility as a high-performance organization. Moreover, Arlington residents know that their tax dollars are funding some of the nation's highest rated programs and services.*

#### Arlington Named Top Ten Digital County

The Center for Digital Government's 2015 Digital Counties Survey ranked Arlington as one of the top 10 Digital



Counties. The award recognizes leading examples of counties using information and communications technology. The Digital Counties Survey, conducted in partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo), examines the overall technology programs and plans of each participating county.

#### One of the Best Places in the Country for Recent College Grads to Find Jobs

Nerdwallet.com named Arlington as the second Best Place for Recent (college) Grads to Find Jobs. In making their selection, NerdWallet stated, "Washington, D.C., and neighboring Arlington, Virginia, stood out among our top 10 cities with up to 67 percent of the workforce finding jobs in management, business, science or the arts. These fields have the most jobs that require a bachelor's degree or higher.

#### Arlington Favorable for Retirement

Bankrate rated Arlington as the Second best city to retire based on the cost of living, crime rate (violent and property crimes), walkability, health care quality, state and local tax burden, personal well-being for seniors and weather (temperature and precipitation). In describing Arlington, Bankrate stated, "There are more than 100 miles of trails, bike lanes and routes throughout the city, so it's not surprising that residents here embrace a healthy lifestyle and rank high on the wellness index. Arlington has a low crime rate, and locals

can get by without a car. Much of the city is walker-friendly, including areas like Crystal City, Rosslyn and Ballston. The city has ample public transportation, with a handful of metro stops in the area. Neighboring Alexandria is also friendly to walkers.

#### Arlington Mill Receives "Excellence in Housing Development" Award

The Urban Land Institute recognized the Arlington Mill Community and Senior Center and Residences "Excellence in Housing Development" with the 2015 Urban Land Institute Washington Trends Award. The award recognized Arlington Mill as "a model of excellence because of the long term, focused collaboration amongst the County Government, the community, the developer and project team.

Completed in February 2014, Arlington Mill Residences was the first new affordable housing development of the Columbia Pike corridor revitalization effort. This four-story, 122-unit complex is 100 percent affordable and includes 98 two- and three-bedroom units to support larger families and 13 units designated for formerly homeless individuals and families.



*Arlington Mill Community & Senior Center*

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### Arlington Ranked #1 for Black Entrepreneurs

Arlington Ranked #1 by GoodCall as the Best City for Black Entrepreneurs. The organization studied 378 metro areas in the country on a number of metrics including economic health, educational attainment, networking opportunity, unemployment rates and concentration of African American-owned businesses.



### Best City for Staying Healthy

For cities with populations of 100,000 to 500,000, Arlington took the top spot for Best Cities for Staying Healthy, according to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Top cities in this area had residents who had healthy lifestyles as well as plenty of health care options. One reason AARP gave for Arlington's rank was its access to exercise opportunities. In terms of overall livability, Arlington took the sixth spot for populations between 100,000 and 500,000.

### Solid Waste Garners Gold Award

Arlington received the Gold Award from the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) for Special Waste Management for the County's Earth Products Recycling Yard. The SWANA's Excellence Awards Program recognizes outstanding solid waste programs and facilities with environmentally and economically sound solid waste management practices. Winners demonstrate effective technologies and processes in system design and operations, worker and community health and safety, as well as successful public education and outreach programs.



### Stars and Stripes Award for "Smart Growth" Voting Innovations



Arlington received the national "Stars and Stripes Award" from the Election Center for the County's Office of Elections working with the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development

to identify the impact that high-density new residential projects have on polling place locations, and adding a condition to provide for on-site polling places in site plans when relevant. Now, planning staff members routinely contact elections staff on high-density projects and works with developers to include polling station space development projects when needed.

### Fire Station Wins Design Award

Firehouse magazine awarded Arlington's Fire Station No. 3 a Career Bronze Award applauding the "state-of-the-art career facility as a model of sustainability while meeting the needs of a growing community."

### Arlington is Top Sixth Healthiest City

According to Livability.Com Arlington is the sixth healthiest city in the nation due to the high percentage of residents who engage in healthy behaviors like exercising regularly, carpooling to work, recycling, not smoking and drinking in moderation. According to Livability, nearly every Arlington resident can access healthy foods and places to exercise, and the County's obesity rate hangs below 20 percent. Arlington's healthy status is one of the reasons it made the 2015 Best Places to Live list.



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### #3 Best Place to Live

Livability.com ranked Arlington the #3 best place to live in the nation among small- to mid-sized cities. The site's ranking criteria include education, health care, housing, economy, amenities. In citing why Arlington made the list, Livability stated, "Residents love the diversity of restaurants, which feature every cuisine possible and often owned by natives of the regions. At just 26 square miles, Arlington is one of the smallest physical places on our list, but it is home to residents from more than 140 countries."



*Livability cited Arlington's amenities as one of its reasons for being a "Best Place to Live"*

### Arlington Wins Bike Friendly Rating

The League of American Bicyclists named Arlington a Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community for the third time since 2007. The County is just one of 75 communities across the nation to achieve that rating – out of 371 ranked by the League. The organization estimates that 69 million people now live in Bicycle Friendly Communities in the United States, with Virginia home to 11 ranked communities. Localities are evaluated by how strong an environment they create for bicycling as a real transportation and recreation option for everyone.

Applicants answer more than 100 questions, and national bicycling experts and local cyclists review their submissions.



### Central Library Named a 2015 Bicycle Friendly Business



*Bikers at Central Library*

The League of American Bicyclists named Arlington's Central Library a 2015 silver-level Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB). The award recognizes Central for its efforts to encourage biking among its employees and patrons through education programs, bike-friendly facilities, car-free visits and being a key distribution point for biker support materials for beginners to long-time riders. The League has named only one other public library a (BFB), but not at the silver level.

### Glencarlyn Park Named "Old Growth" Forest

In October, the Old Growth Forest Network designated a parcel of Glencarlyn Park as "Old Growth." Arlington is just one of four Virginia localities to receive the award, and the only one in Northern Virginia to do so. The organization cited the parcel's remnant mature forest, and its surviving flora with wildlife as two of the reasons for the designation.

### Arlington Wins "Sterling Award" from the National Arbor Day Foundation

The National Arbor Day Foundation in November presented Arlington a Tree City Sterling Award for its ongoing commitment and efforts to improving its urban forest. Arlington is only one of four jurisdictions in Virginia to obtain the honor that the organization gives to localities that have received 10 Tree City Growth Awards for going beyond what is required for Tree City status.

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#### **Individual Awards**

##### **Marcy Foster Receives Human Resources Leadership Award**

Marcy Foster, the Director of Human Resources, received the 2015 Human Resources Leadership Association's Sister Eymard Gallagher Award for Corporate Social Responsibility for her work on "Ban the Box" which strengthens the County's commitment to treat all applicants fairly and remove barriers to employment for those who have been convicted of a criminal offense.

##### **Helen Reinecke-Wilt Awarded Green Patriot Award**

George Mason University recognized Helen Reinecke-Wilt, of Arlington's Green Home Choice program; for her work with area homeowners to optimize energy efficiency, including helping Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment to develop the Energy Master's Program, and her volunteer work to help improve energy and water efficiency in affordable housing.

##### **Jane Rudolph Named to Leadership Arlington's 40 under 40 Honor Roll**

Leadership Arlington named Jane Rudolph, Director of the Department of Parks & Recreation, as one of the region's top 40 leaders under the age of 40. The organization recognized Rudolph for her positive personal and professional leadership impact and heralded her as a member of the next generation of regional trailblazers.

